WORLD / A25

Massive bomb attack foiled in Turkey

NEWS / A2

Enrile, Angara oppose Senate probe of NBN deals

WORLD / A24

Japanese PM Abe quits, a victim of scandals that stalled his reform agenda

SPORTS / A30

UE guns for historic sweep

Court bases decision on two illegal acts

By Volt Contreras

FOUR ILLEGAL ACTS CONSTITUTED THE plunder charge filed against deposed President Joseph Estrada, but prosecutors were only able to pin him down on two—his systematic collection of P545 million in illegal gambling payoffs and his receipt of a P189-million commission from stock mar-

COURT/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, September 13, 2007 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 277 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

AT A GLANCE

The court found Estrada: Innocent of perjury; guilty of plunder beyond reasonable doubt on 2 of 4 counts that he was charged with: P545M illegal gambling payoffs and a P189-million commission from stock market purchases using SSS, GSIS funds.

- Sentenced to reclusion perpetua (in prison for 20-40 years).
- Accessory penalties:

—Civil interdiction (deprived of the rights of parental authority or guardianship over the person or property of any ward, of marital authority, and of the right to manage his property and to dispose of it).

—Disqualified from public office, profession or calling and deprived of right to vote.

—Government forfeiture of P545.291 million, with interest and income earned, inclusive of the P200 million deposited in the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation account; P189 million, inclusive of interest and income earned, deposited in the Jose Velarde account; and "Boracay Mansion" (house and lot located at 100 11th Street, New Manila, Quezon City).

GUILTY OF PLUNDER

REM ZAMORA

HISTORIC: History will long remember that Joseph Estrada is the first Philippine President to be convicted for plunder after going through the entire judicial process. As they leave the court following the verdict, Estrada, wife Loi, daughter Jackie (behind him) and son Jinggoy are laden with anguish.

Hush blankets holding room for Estrada family

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Tarra Quismundo

WHEN THE AUDIO MONITOR INstalled in a corner transmitted the bad news, the room was instantly hushed.

A buffet was then being prepared. Silverware, wineglasses and neatly folded napkins were laid on a white-covered table, as though for a feast. But the mood had turned glum for the assembly of roughly 50.

The scene was a small room on the sixth floor at the Sandiganbayan building—a "holding area" away from the prying eyes of the media that the Sandiganbayan Sheriff's Office had assigned for the VIPs in Joseph Estrada's camp who could not be accommodated in the cramped courtroom four floors down.

It was here that relatives as well as friends and political allies closest to the man wept and consoled one another upon hearing yesterday's guilty verdict.

Among the Estrada officials observed in the room were former Secretaries Vicente Rivera of transportation, Benjamin Diokno of budget, Alberto Romualdez of health, Jose Pardo of finance, Horacio Morales of agrarian reform, Gregorio Vigilar of public works, Bienvenido Laguesma of labor and Mario Tiaoqui of energy.

HUSH BLANKETS/ A10

OVER ACTING!

It's enough to make a grown man cry

ANALYSIS

By Joaquin Bernas, S.J.

AFTER A TRIAL LASTING MORE than six years, the Sandiganbayan finally handed down its verdict on the criminal charges filed against deposed President Joseph Estrada.

For the lesser charge of perjury, Joseph Estrada was acquitted. Since acquittal is immediately final, the perjury case is a closed matter. For the crime of plunder, however, Estrada was convicted.

But what is plunder?

In a decision promulgated during the early stages of the Estrada case, the Supreme Court described plunder thus: "Plunder, a term chosen from other equally apt terminologies, like kleptocracy and economic treason, punishes the use of high office for personal enrichment, committed through a series of acts done not in the public eye but in stealth and secrecy over a period of time, that may involve so many persons, here and abroad, and

IT'S ENOUGH/ A8

Show of force: An overkill

By Alcuin Papa and Nikko Dizon

THE SHOW OF FORCE WAS AN overkill, but the Philippine National Police said it was better to have "overreacted" than to be caught unprepared.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada said

SHOW/ A6

Verdict serves as a warning to GMA, too

COMMENTARY

By Amando Doronila

THE COUNTRY WAS UNRUFFLED yesterday when the Sandiganbayan handed down its decision finding deposed President Joseph Estrada guilty of the crime of plunder, inscribing his name in Philippine history as the first Filipino President ever to be convicted of the crime of plunder—or of any crime, for that matter.

Given the gravity of the offense and its precedent-smashing effects, the verdict did not come as a shock to most Filipinos, not even to Estrada himself and his lawyers. They were prepared for it.

However, the decision presents a haunting prospect of criminal accountability for Ms Arroyo after her presidency ends. It has set the precedent of a successful reckoning of accountability after a presidency. It has put in place the mechanism for accountability.

After the collapse of the Estrada administration, the Supreme Court ruled that the ousted leader was not immune from prosecution for criminal acts committed during his incumbency.

Already, Ms Arroyo faces a number of issues taking her to task, including the accountability for the extrajudicial killings of political

VERDICT/ A8

GMA: Verdict to end destabilization talk

By PDI Staff

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO said last night the Sandiganbayan decision to convict Joseph Estrada should put an end to destabilization talk, but calls were made for her to bring to trial cases of plunder and corruption committed under her administration.

Speaking during the launch in Malacañang of a forum for peace attended by Christian bishops, Muslim ulamas (preachers) and military leaders, Ms Arroyo said: "We live by the rule of law. We abide by what the courts of the land decide."

She later told reporters: "We abide by what the court decides."

Asked if the court ruling on Estrada put an end to talk of destabilization, Ms Arroyo said: "That's all right to say that."

"We bow to the decision of the Sandiganbayan," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

"We hope and pray that the rule of law will prevail."

"Meanwhile, we have a country to run, an economy to grow, and a peace to win. We hope that this sad episode in our history will not permanently distract us from these goals," he said.

Sergio Apostol, presidential legal adviser, said Ms Arroyo did not only feel elated by the guilty verdict handed down on Estrada, she also felt vindicated.

"It is difficult for me to say I am happy," Apostol quoted Ms Arroyo as telling him. But he said that be-

GMA/ A19

Court noted it's first plunder case vs highest official of the land

By Volt Contreras

"I TOOK A GAMBLE," JOSEPH Estrada said—and the nation watched as the gambler lost.

In generally subdued proceedings that lasted barely 15 minutes and broadcast live on radio and television, the Sandiganbayan's Special Division yesterday pronounced the 70-year-old ousted President guilty of plunder and sentenced him up to 40 years in prison. He left the courtroom teary-eyed and trailed by weeping family members and supporters.

GUILTY/ A10

Erap: We'll fight, will file motion for reconsideration

By TJ Burgonio and Jocelyn R. Uy

FOR JOSEPH ESTRADA, IT WAS FAR FROM being the end of the world. For him, the fight had just begun.

Initially looking glum after being convicted of plunder, the deposed President yester-

ERAP/ A6

It's all over, Estrada lawyer tells daughter

By Norman Bordadora

EDWARD SERAPIO HUGGED AND KISSED HIS 12-year-old daughter when he went home in Quezon City yesterday.

"It's all over," Serapio told Nicole as he broke the good news that all is now well in the family.

The Sandiganbayan yesterday acquitted Serapio of conspiring with deposed President Joseph Estrada and his son, Jinggoy, to commit plunder. The younger Estrada, who is now a senator, was also cleared.

While the Estradas dealt with stringent security arrangements, their battery of lawyers and persistent journalists after the verdict, Serapio and his wife left the courthouse quietly and headed back to their house at Sta. Mesa Heights.

IT'S ALL/ A9

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/09/12/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Second FRONT PAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Website: www.inquirer.net/nation

PERO SABI DONE DEAL NA!

EZ2
29 13

FOUR DIGIT
9 8 2 6

(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening
4 1 4 | 3 9 7

MEGALOTTO 6/45
12 26 27 39 42 44
₱9,555,930.00

Probe of NBN deals opposed

Enrile, Angara claim there are no binding contracts yet

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TWO ADMINISTRATION SENATORS YESTERDAY said the Senate has no business investigating the national broadband deal (NBN) and the cyber education project (CEP) because there was no binding contract yet on the two projects that are to be funded by loans from the Chinese government.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said there was no contract for the Senate to investigate as the NBN deal with the Chinese-based ZTE Corp. has not yet been consummated.

The Senate blue ribbon committee is expected to hold its first hearings on the ZTE deal on Tuesday.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who is pushing the Senate probe, on Tuesday presented what purported to be a "reconstituted" copy of the stolen ZTE contract signed by Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza in China last April in ceremonies that were witnessed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Enrile, however, said the document was merely a supply agreement and that the more binding contract, the financial agreement, has not yet been approved.

"That contract is meaningless unless a financing plan has been approved," he said.

Enrile said it would be more prudent for the Senate to wait for the Supreme Court to decide on the case filed by Amsterdam Holdings, the losing bidder, asking the high court to nullify the ZTE deal.

"Let the Supreme Court make a judgment. I suggest we should await the disposition of the Supreme Court because if it declares there is no contract or there is a contract but is invalid, then that's it. We cannot go against that," he said.

Sen. Edgardo Angara similarly said he was not pursuing a previous proposal to probe the CEP after he was assured by government economic managers that the project was still in the planning stages.

"From the testimony of the three department heads responsible for approving the debt financing for the project—Department Finance, Department of Budget and Management, and Central Bank—there is no contract as of the moment. So what will we investigate?" said Angara after meeting with Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya and central bank governor Amado Tetangco.

Enrile said that aside from there being no contract, the party pushing for nullification of the ZTE deal, Amsterdam Holdings' Joey de Venecia, could be liable for graft.

As the son of House Speaker Jose de Venecia, the younger De Venecia should not be seen as "intervening" in any government contract, Enrile said.

"Any spouse or relative of the President, Vice President, Senate President and House Speaker to the fourth degree of consanguinity cannot intervene in any contract with the government," said Enrile.

"This law was enacted specifically to preempt situations like the ZTE dispute. The young De Venecia admitted that Amsterdam is his corporation and there is no question about it—he intervened in a contract," he said.

INSIDE NEWS

THERE'S A CATCH

How do you introduce cutting-edge satellite technology in schools that have yet to experience the simple comfort of electricity? That's what opposition congressman Rufus Rodriguez is asking in criticizing the Cyber Education Project. / A22

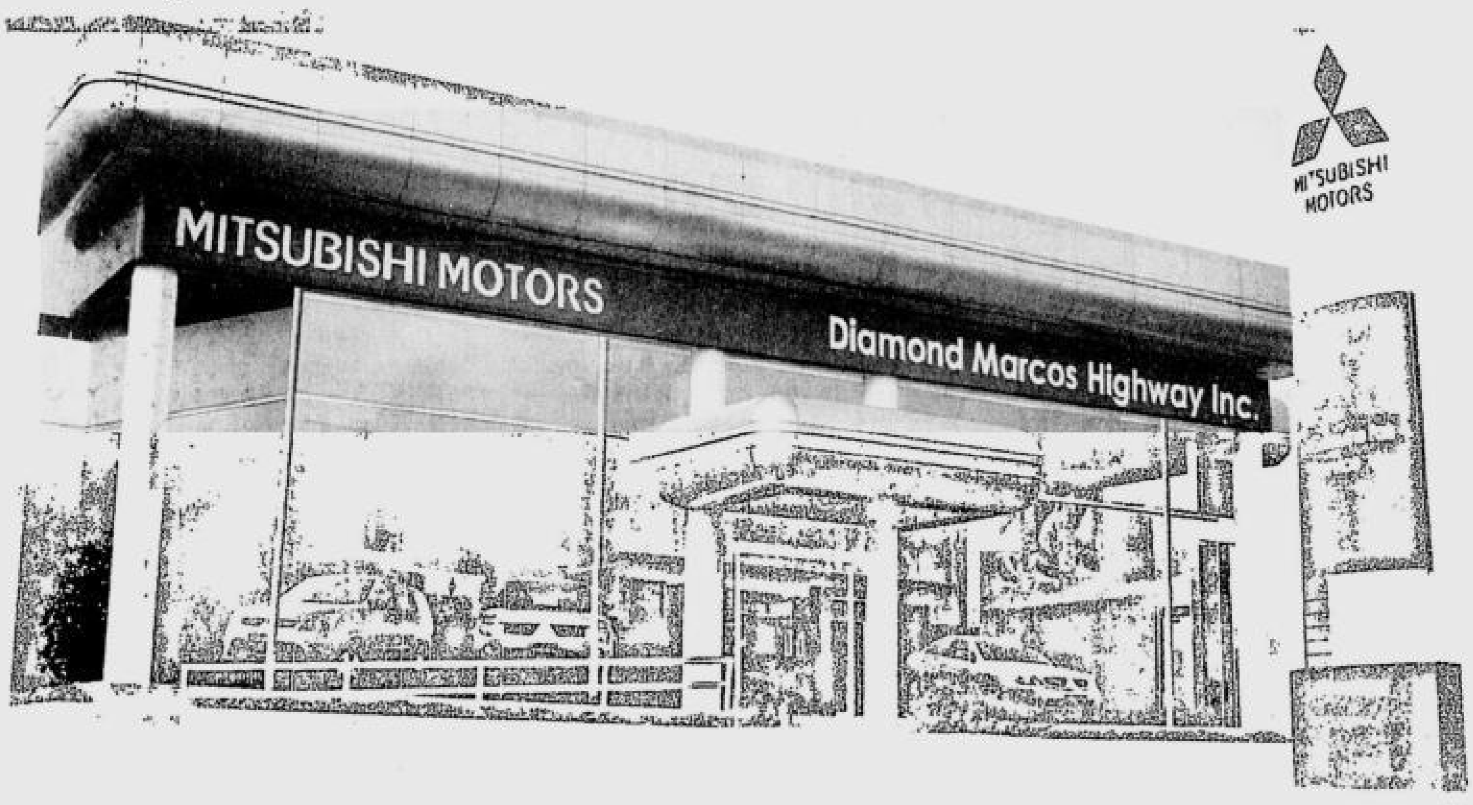
ONE-STOP-SHOP

The government has approved the setting up of a one-stop-shop at the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board to speed up the issuance of housing-related permits. / A7

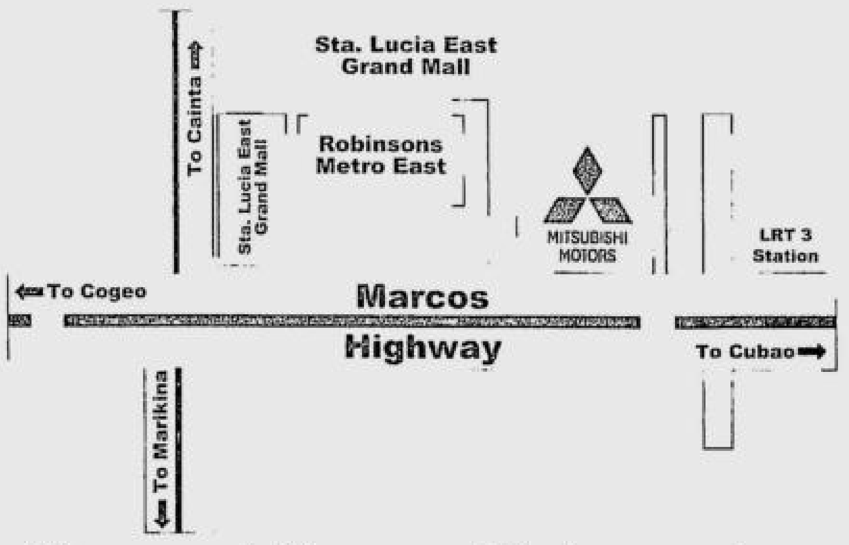
LEGAL ACTION

About 100 human rights lawyers are set to petition the courts for urgent remedies to protect the rights of people who may be placed under surveillance by the newly-formed Anti-Terror Council headed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita. / A5

We invite you to Mitsubishi Motors' New Showroom & Service Center at Marcos Highway



Mitsubishi Motors Philippines congratulates Diamond Marcos Highway, Inc. on the opening of its New Showroom and After Sales Service Center.



Diamond Marcos Highway, Inc.
Marcos Highway, Barangay dela Paz, Pasig City
Tel. Nos. 645-4801 to 05
www.diamond-motor.com.ph

MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corporation

www.mitsubishi-motors.com.ph

Migrante raps POEA ruling on 'Sentosa 27'

By Jerome Aning

THE MIGRANTE INTERNATIONAL overseas Filipinos alliance yesterday denounced the decision of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration dismissing the illegal recruitment case filed by 27 Filipino health professionals against the Sentosa Recruitment Agency (SRA).

Migrante chair Connie Bragas-Regalado refused to accept the ruling of POEA administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz that found no merit in the complainants' charge of recruitment law violations against Sentosa.

"Mrs. Baldoz exacerbates the injustices already suffered by theses nurses and health professionals. The collusion between POEA and SRA in this case is palpable. Sentosa is clearly guilty of misrepresentation, contract substitution and a range of contract violations," Regalado said in a statement.

The complainants—dubbed the "Sentosa 27"—were recruited from Manila to work in the US by SRA. They walked out of their work places in April 2006 and filed charges against SRA, accusing the firm of misrepresentation in their recruitment, substitution of contracts, withholding of salaries and other recruitment law violations.

Highly dubious

The case gained national attention because of reports—later denied by Baldoz—that former presidential chief-of-staff Mike Defensor tried to intervene in the lifting of the suspension of SRA's recruitment activities by the POEA..

Among the complainants was Elmer Jacinto, who placed first in the medical board exams and then made the controversial decision to work as a nurse in the United States.

Regalado called the timing of the the POEA decision "highly dubious."

"After sitting on the case for more than a year, it's suspicious that the decision comes out more days after Sentosa's spin that the discrimination charge against them was dismissed in the US," she added.

US dismissal

She recalled that according POEA rules and regulations, decisions on illegal recruitment cases are to be released within 90 days of the filing of the complaint. The case was filed with the POEA in May 2006.

Baldoz's decision followed that of the US justice department's dismissal of a separate complaint by the 27 health care professionals of unfair immigration-related employment practices against Sentosa Care LLC, SRA's New York-based mother company.

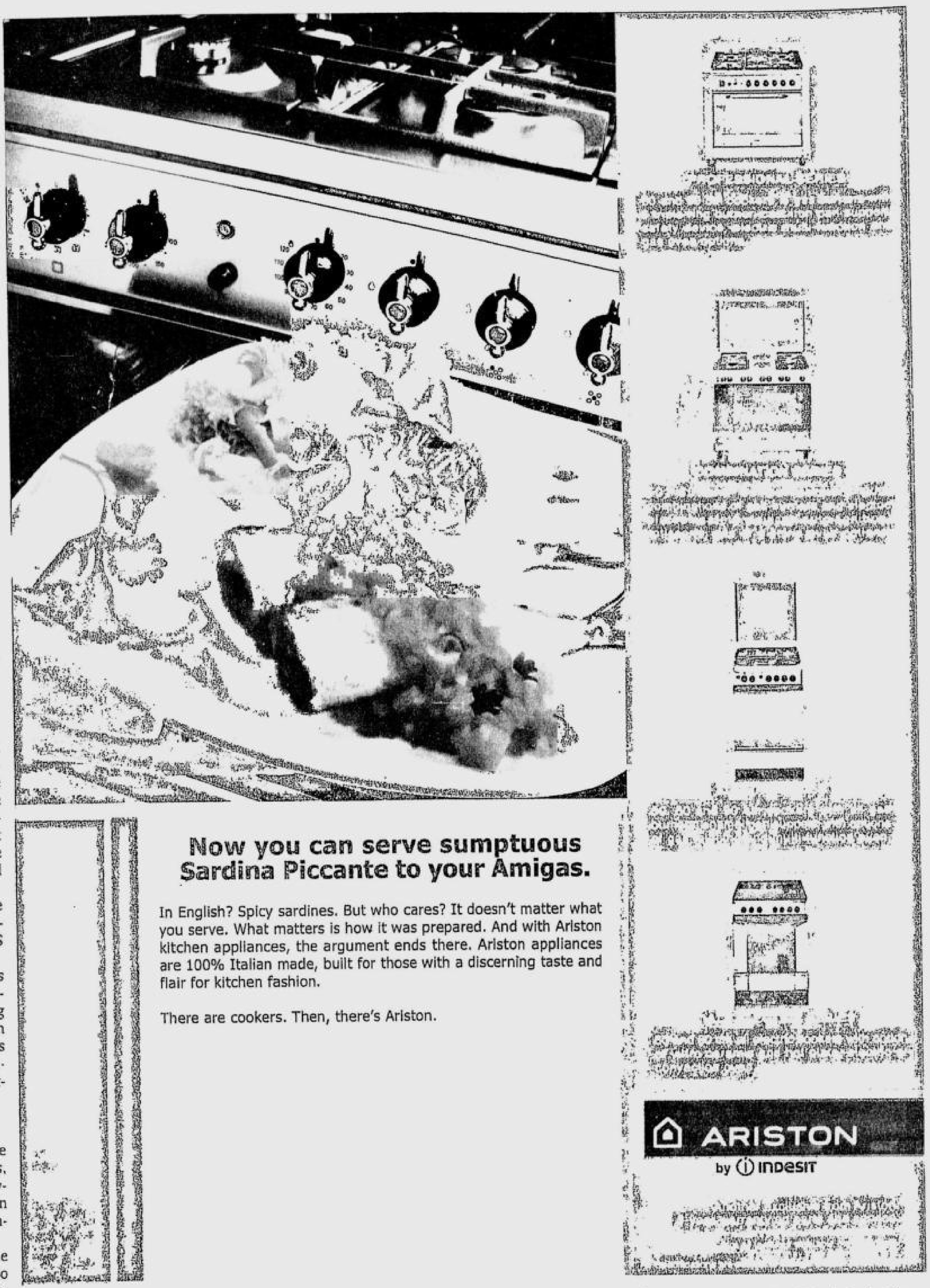
Regalado, however, said the complainants' lawyer Felix Vinluan has denied the reported US DOJ decision.

"The reports [of the charges being dismissed] are misleading and untrue. Far from being dismissed, the discrimination cases are now with the US DOJ's Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer," she quoted Vinluan as saying.

Signature campaign

Migrante vowed to continue fighting for the complainants, and has backed Gabriela party-list Rep. Luz Ilagan's resolution demanding a congressional inquiry on the case.

In the US, Regalado said the National Alliance for Filipino Concerns will be leading the "Justice for Sentosa 27" campaign. An international petition for the group has also gathered more than 2,000 signatures, she said.



Now you can serve sumptuous Sardina Piccante to your Amigas.

In English? Spicy sardines. But who cares? It doesn't matter what you serve. What matters is how it was prepared. And with Ariston kitchen appliances, the argument ends there. Ariston appliances are 100% Italian made, built for those with a discerning taste and flair for kitchen fashion.

There are cookers. Then, there's Ariston.

ARISTON
by INDESIT

Available at leading appliance stores nationwide. Official Distributor: Fabriano S.p.A. Inc. # 103 Mercedes Avenue, Brgy. San Miguel, Pasig City. CEBU office (032) 253-9860, DAVAO office (082) 225-4109, CAGAYAN DE ORO office (088) 856-4727. Showrooms: Shangri-La (02) 631-8282, Serendra (02) 856-2518, and MC Home Depot Fort Bonifacio (02) 815-8875. Service Hotline 643-3456 • Nationwide [illegible] all centers available

Picket at Manila Zoo set

ANIMAL WELFARE activists will picket the Manila Zoo today to protest congestion in the zoo and the alleged psychological suffering inflicted on the captive wildlife there.

"The animals at the Manila Zoo are treated like prisoners, even though they've committed no crime. These animals are bred or captured for a lifetime of loneliness and misery, and the best way to help stop the suffering is to boycott the zoo," said Jason Baker, the director for Asia-Pacific of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

He said that in the wild, many animals spend their entire lives with their close-knit families, but in zoos, animals are usually separated from their families from when they are babies.

The protesters will be covered from head to foot in little more than brightly colored body paint.

Jerome Aning

Dawn Admits: My Husband Has A New *Lover*

After almost a decade of being wife to Congressman Anton Lagdameo, actress Dawn Zulueta has finally gotten the courage to admit the truth about her marriage.

"My husband has a new lover," she bravely discloses.

This new woman in her husband's life has a stunning hourglass figure - long, sexy legs, a shapely waist, slender arms and a flat tummy. She even looks younger than Dawn was a few years ago

Who is this new woman? Before a malicious conclusion manages to form itself in your mind, let the truth be known: Her husband's new lover - is Dawn herself!

After weight struggles, mostly a result of her pregnancy, Dawn has managed to regain her whistle-bait body through religiously undergoing Marie France treatments, watching her diet and living a healthy lifestyle. At one point she reached 146 lbs. and a 40-inch waistline, a far cry from her formerly slim figure.

She reveals, "I went up 40 pounds after giving birth. My waistline was 40? 44? And that was from a 27-inch waistline! Imagine? I mean if you think about it, *magpapa-lipo na lang ako diba?* I actually consulted a doctor about it and was so close to doing it already. But the doctor said, "Dawn, *kung gusto mo mabuntis, wag ka muna magpa-lipo. Kasi sayang.*" She was being honest. That's 'cause if you gain weight again after you have lipo done, the fat comes out in other areas that were not "lipo-ed." So your body isn't proportioned, it's disfigured. *Yun yung may mga* ripples. *Parang longganisa!* Plus, I don't like seeing marks on my body. With lipo, *kahit maliliit,* I still don't like seeing scars. *Pag nagsuot ako ng* bathing suit, *parang halatang may ginawa ako sa area na 'to.*"

> *"I think that having not only a sexy figure, but a healthy lifestyle helps in keeping the fire burning in any marriage. Kasi when you take these things for granted, it's like taking your partner for granted."*

"When I started doing Marie France, I told myself, 'Why didn't I think of this before?!'" Dawn recalls. "I started to lose weight even in areas no amount of exercise could treat! Like my saddlebags, cellulites, *ganyan.* They have so many machines! All the treatments are non-surgical and non-invasive so it's safe."

Now at 126 lbs. with a healthier, slimmer body, she is happier, more confident and more energetic. Dawn stresses, however, that she is all for being slim the safe, healthy way. She even admits to loving food, a refreshing divergence from the rampant eating disorders some celebrities fall victim to. "It would be difficult for me to avoid food, because I'm surrounded with a lot of people who love to eat. My own family loves to eat. So it's difficult for me to try to keep everything to a minimum, especially all the rich foods. But that's where discipline comes in."

And her discipline and consistent visits to Marie France have paid off, with her figure as evidence. "I think that having not only a sexy figure, but a healthy lifestyle helps in keeping the fire burning in any marriage," Dawn states. "I know that I look good. So I guess it helps, because it boosts my confidence when it comes to being with my husband. *Siyempre,* he in turn is also happy with the way I look, and I guess he also sees how happy I am with the way I am."

"It even affects your mood," Dawn adds. "It affects everything you do. Now, when my husband wants to go out or do anything, it's easier for me to get up and go because I'll fit into anything. Unlike before, I'd refuse to go out and tell him I had nothing to wear. He'd tell me, 'Ok, I'll buy you something to wear,' but then I'd tell him, 'It's 2 sizes bigger than my original size. *'Wag na lang.'* I'd just get depressed. So that could've posed bigger problems if it kept on happening. Now I know finding out everything about each other and accepting each other is a normal development in any relationship. However, having said that, it's also still important to maintain some kind of mystery and allure. *Kasi* when you take these things for granted, it's like taking your partner for granted. So I think it's important that married couples keep themselves looking good for each other, like how it was when they were still dating. And that goes for the men too!"

As for her husband's "new lover," what is she up to now? "A new baby," Dawn excitedly announces. "Come December, my husband and I are going to work on it. So that's the next big project for me. And you're going to see me gain weight all over again!"

She is not worried, however. "You're going to see me lose it all again too," she promises. "'Cause there's always Marie France!"

Call Marie France today for a FREE consultation at 894-BODY (2639); Cebu (032) 233-7637/39/41; Pampanga (045) 961-2981/961-2991.

Corrections

IN THE SEPT. 6 ISSUE, Juan L. Mercado's "Viewpoint" column on Page A10 of the Opinion section—"Cry of the widows"—misstated that Benjie de Vera was one of the ex-communist rebels killed by their former comrades. De Vera died on Sept. 7 of a heart attack.

* * *

IN THE SEPT. 12 ISSUE, a front-page article—"SC votes 8-7 to stop NBN deal"—misstated the province represented by Rep. Carlos Padilla. Padilla represents Nueva Vizcaya—not Nueva Ecija.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, the photo caption on Page A10 misspelled the surname of one of the justices of the Sandiganbayan Special Division. The justice's name is Diosdado Peralta—not Paralta.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Fine vs DepEd exec upheld

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS AFFIRMED the penalty imposed by the Office of the Ombudsman on a top official of the Department of Education for his involvement in the purchase of P21.5 million worth of vehicles without public bidding.

The high tribunal, in a decision dated Sept. 7, dismissed the petition of former DepEd Undersecretary for External Affairs Victor Manhit who sought to overturn the finding of the Office of the Ombudsman that he was guilty of "conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service" and "simple misconduct." He was fined the equivalent of six months of his salary.

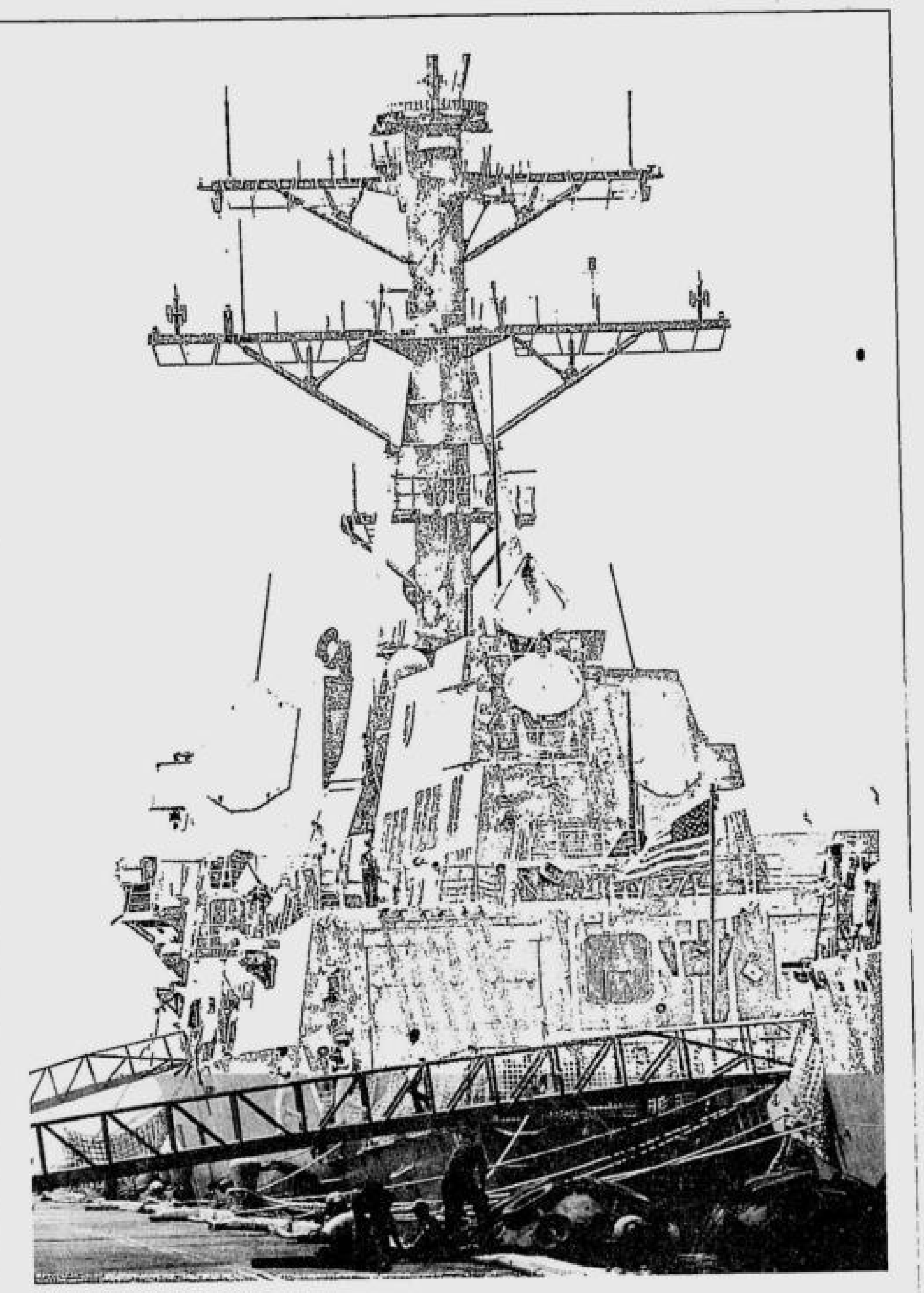
The ruling stemmed from an administrative case filed by the Ombudsman in 2000 against nine DepEd officials, including then Secretary Andrew Gonzales, for a "conspiracy by silence" regarding the illegal disbursement of donated funds. The specific charges included: failing to follow guidelines in connection with the receipt and use of donations; allowing donations to be used for purposes other than that for which the amount was granted; and failing to comply with the procurement guidelines for the purchase of government vehicles.

The case concerned the purchase by DepEd of P21.5 million worth of vehicles with money from a special account in the Land Bank of the Philippines. The apparently secret account contained P12 million donated by the bank to the DepEd as well as interest earned from the department's other accounts.

Manhit was found liable for not taking steps to report the existence of the special account to the budget department, Commission on Audit, or the DepEd's accounting department. He was also identified as an active participant in purchasing the vehicles without public bidding and without authority from the Office of the President.

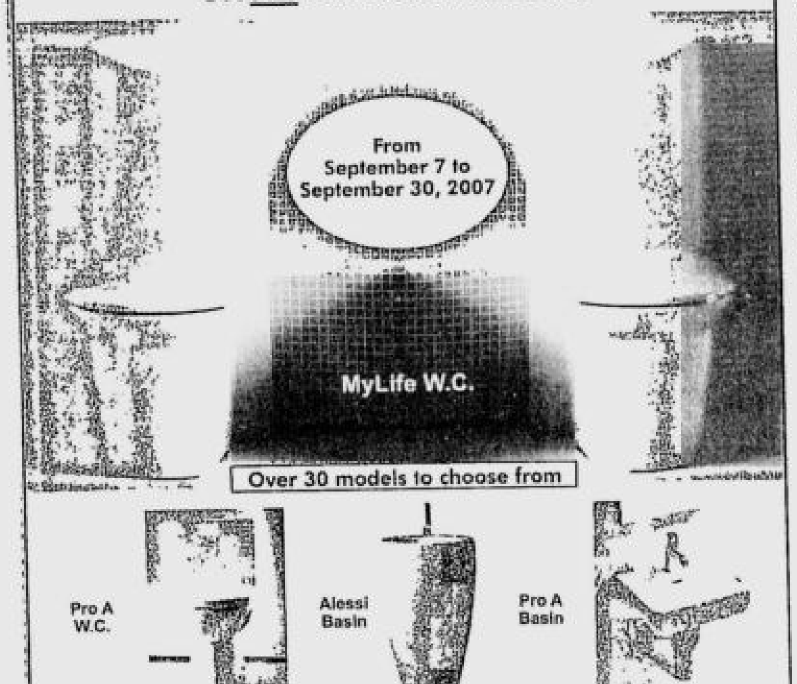
Manhit had questioned the findings before the Court of Appeals. He argued that he did not violate accounting and auditing rules because in serving as Undersecretary for External Affairs, he had no legal obligation to report the existence of the special account, which he said he did not know about.

But the appellate court ruled against him, and this was sustained by the high court.



GOODWILL VISIT
Two US Navy ships from the US 7th Fleet are in Manila to conduct community projects and participate in friendship-building activities in the country. The ships will turn over various items donated by Americans, including toys, books and medical supplies to the Department of Social Welfare and Development for distribution to those less fortunate. USS Chung-Hoon, based at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, is shown docked at the Manila South Harbor. Partly shown is the San Diego-based USS Milius. Another ship, the USS Chosin, is due to arrive in Cebu today. ERIK ARAZAS

LAUFEN
bathroom
Made in Switzerland (Since 1892)
BUY 1 Fixture
GET 1 Fixture FREE!
ON ALL BATHROOM FIXTURES
From September 7 to September 30, 2007



active global sourcing, inc.
225 Nicanor Garcia St. Bel-Air II, Makati City
Tel.: 8907821 / 8964450 / 8964964 Fax: 8968783
www.activeglobal.ph email: activeglobalsourcing@yahoo.com
Per DTI NCR Permit No.AI-0619 Series of 2007

Now Open!
Philhome 2007
Philippine Home Builders Expo
BUILDCON 2007
BUILDING - CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT EXPO
BUILDERS TRUCK AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT SHOW

MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the exhibitors, suppliers and participants of the PHILHOME 2007 - Philippine Home Builders Expo in conjunction with BUILDCON 2007 - Building - Construction Supplies & Equipment Expo which will be held on September 13 - 16, 2007

It is the thrust of the present Administration to alleviate poverty and afford the Filipinos a decent standard of living. We in the government housing sector are doing our best to support this advocacy by providing our marginalized families with decent and affordable housing units. Thus, I am delighted to note the active participation of the private sector groups in this endeavor

This event shares in the government's advocacy to address the country's housing needs. Through this one-stop trade exhibition, real estate and construction industry stakeholders come together and present to the public the latest products and quality services available in the market

This 6-in-1 expo is a prime example of our successful partnership. I laud the organizers and participants for their support in sustaining the bullishness of the real estate market. By doing this, we are complementing efforts to maintain the overall favorable financial climate in the country today. I encourage you to continue to be our partner in this endeavor so that we can pool our resources and expertise in the housing industry

MABUHAY!

NOLI "KABAYAN" DE CASTRO

Manny Villar
Senate President

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE

MESSAGE

Warmest welcome greetings to the organizers, exhibitors, visitors and guest of PHILHOME 2007 (Philippine Home Builders Expo) and BUILDCON 2007 (Building Construction Supplies and Equipment Expo) to be held on September 13 to 16, 2007 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila

This is one-stop exhibition for the real estate and construction industry truly offers an auspicious venue for the showcasing of the latest quality products and services in home planning and building at lowest prices

Its 6-in-1 concept, which comprises different shows that focus on Philippine home developing, designing, contracting, furnishing, maintenance, finance and insurance, is indeed a unique way of of offering the opportunity to suppliers as well as to the consumers to negotiate for the best deal in the field of real estate and construction

I am certain that this event will make a great leap towards providing the best products and services to the Filipinos for better home development and construction in the country

On this note, let me extend my sincerest congratulations all the people behind this trade exhibition, particularly the men and women of AdExhibit Inc. for successfully staging it through their unrelenting "sipag at tiyaga"

Mabuhay po ang PHILHOME 2007 at BUILDCON 2007!

MANNY VILLAR

Republika ng Pilipinas
Lungsod ng Pasay, Kalakhang Maynila
TANGGAPANG NG ALKALDE

Warm greetings to the organizers of the PHILHOME 2007- Philippine Home Builders Expo and BUILDCON 2007 - Building Construction Supplies & Equipment Expo at the World Trade Center Metro Manila (WTCMM) this September 13 - 16, 2007

It is an honor for Pasay City to be chosen as the host city for this 6-in-1 concept where exhibitors will have the opportunity to showcase and promote existing products and services, launch new ones, as well as share their expertise in the field og real estate and construction

This four-day event affords our countrymen the rare chance to interact with the most knowledgeable people in the business and avail of the best products at a very competetive price.

May this year's expo be just one of many such events

More power!

Atty. Wenceslao "Peewee" B. Trinidad
City Mayor

THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS

UNITED ARCHITECTS OF THE PHILIPPINES
THE INTEGRATED AND ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ARCHITECTS
OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

MESSAGE

Greetings!

On behalf of the United Architects of the Philippines, it is with extreme pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings and my best wishes to the men and women of ADEXHIBIT INC. as you hold the PHILHOME 2007 – Philippine Home Builders Expo in conjunction with BUILDCON 2007 which is scheduled to be held at the World Trade Center Metro Manila (WTCMM) from September 13-16, 2007!

This event serves as a significant venue where architects, stakeholders in the built environment and business leaders from all over the Philippines can meet and enable to explore emerging technologies and the latest innovation and technologies on construction supplies and equipment. It will also pave way to the local and international exhibitors to a lot of opportunities wherein they can interact, showcase promotes their products services and expertise among Filipino architects and allied professionals

We at the United Architects of the Philippines are proud of our long-standing relationship with our friends in the construction industry and we are confident that the mutually beneficial cooperation between the UAP and the stakeholders in the built environment will be developing further for the welfare of the Filipino architects through your exhibition

I wish you all success in realizing the objectives of organizing this Exhibition. Again, congratulations and best wishes for your continued success!

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

ARCH. MEDELIANO T. ROLDAN, JR., FUAP
National President

MESSAGE

On behalf of The Philippines Institute of Interior Designers, we highly support this endeavor of Philhome and Buildcon. The trade show of Philhome 2007 and Buildcon 2007 at the World Trade Center Manila from September 13 – 16, 2007 is very much fitting to our times, as our economy is booming. Construction projects of high rise building are rising, raw lands are being developed, fresh ideas in design are introduced, innovative materials are showcased and also new financial services are created, such as lower interest rates. This is a showcase of real estate developers, designers, contractors, furnishers, maintenance services, finance and insurance companies that will be made available to the end-users

We salute the organizer of this trade show for their aggressiveness in putting up this prestigious event. Maraming Salamat po!

Mabuhay!

Archt. Arlen P. De Guzman, uap, fpiid
President

Buy, Construct, Renovate, Beautify & Finance
your Dream House!

Philippine Home Developers Show
Philippine Home Furnishing Show
Philippine Home Designers Show
Philippine Home Maintenance Show
Philippine Home Contractors Show
Philippine Home Finance & Security Show

EXHIBITORS LIST:
504 ANTIQUE SHOP • AMBROSE INDUSTRIES • BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS • BENTER N CUTTER MACHINERY CORP • BUSINESS MACHINE CORP • BUY & SELL / PROPERTY FINDER • CARD F
MARKETING • DAXA SOFTWARE CORPORATION • DDS ENTERPRISES • DSL GAM ENTERPRISES • EDGE PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CORP/ KAWAYAN COVE • EDWARD MARCS PHILS INC • EVERG
UNLIMITED CORP • FAITH EXPORT INC • FAUX FINISHES • FILINVEST LAND INC /PROMAX • FINBAR REALTY • G O ENGINEERING • GEOTECH-SPECTRA PRECISION LASER • HANBEE TRADING • HERO GF
ITES • HM TRADING • DEPOT HOME MAGAZINE • HSBC • KUYSEN ENTERPRISES INC • LANDCO PACIFIC • LOBI TRADING • LOCSIN LIVING • MAKER COMMERCIAL CO INC • MARKLINE HOME FURNIT
AND D COR • MERALCO IND'L ENGINEERING SVCS CORP • MIDTOWN INDUSTRIAL SALES INC • MIESCOR BUILDERS INC /LANDBEES CORP • MY MOTHER'S GARDEN • MY SOLUTIONS INC • PAN
ROPERTY • PARADISE CHEMICAL CORPORATION • PETRONNE INTERIOR SUPPLY/CRANMORE • PHIL INSTITUTE OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS • PHILTOWN PROPERTIES • POT DOG YUMMYES DELIGH
HIME PEAK PROPERTIES LTD INC • PR ENTERPRISES INC /PRIT ENTERPRISES • PUERTO DEL SOL BEACH RESORT • RACAL CERAMICS BARGAIN CENTER • SOO PHILS INC • SHIEN JIEH ENTERPR
SNAP-ON TOOLS PHILS • SOLAR ELECTRIC CO , INC • SOLIDEDGE COMPANY INC • SPRAYWORKS COATING CORP • STAR COMMUNICATION HOLDINGS CORP • STONETREASURES INTERNATI
TRADING CORP • THE RED ENVELOPE CORPORATION • TWO HEADS PROFESSIONAL DESIGNS & ENTERPRISES • VENS LIGHT & LEISURE MARKETING • VGSY2000 TECHNOLOGIES • ELECTRIC
QUIPMENT SALES CO INC (ELESCOM)OEM PARTS MFG CORP • H2O HEATING SYSTEMS INC • BENGAR INDUSTRIAL CORP • AH LORDSONS INC • JAMAN PRODUCTS, INC • DWIGHTSTEEL BUIL
SYSTEMS • AMBROSE INDUSTRIES • HDM TECHNOLOGIES INC • TIP TOP TINSMITH • CHEE PUCK REFRIGERATION INC • DMC ENGINEERING • (COLORSTEEL/PSC) FOR FASCIA BOARD COLORS
SYSTEMS CORP-FOR SHOW DIR • PEDROLLO PUMPS PHILS INC • CHAMPION FINE TOOLING CORP (CHAMPION FINE TOOLING INC) • ARREM INDUSTRIES INC • RKRS • LIVING WATER SYSTEM • FILIP
TANK INTERNATIONAL CORP (SUPERTANK) • UPTOWN INDUSTRIAL SALES INC • KRIRUB INUSTRIAL SALES • ALPS MERCHANDISING CORP • DN STEEL GROUP OF COMPANIES

ENDORSED AND SUPPORTED BY:
THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS
MEDIA PARTNERS:
UNTV • DREAM FM • 107 • STAR • MANILA BULLETIN • BusinessMirror • GRAPHIC • BUY & SELL • PROPERTY FINDER • ARCHIKONST • depot
EVENT PARTNER:
Organized by: ADEXHIBIT
For Inquries, look for Gerard or Lenie
Tel.No.: (+632) 672-2870 to 77 • Fax: (+632) 672-2890 to 92 / 672-3724
email: sales@adexhibit-inc.com • www.adexhibit-inc.com

September 13-16, 2007
World Trade Center
Open from 10am - 7 pm
Come & Win FREE Hourly RAFFLE
FREE ENTRANCE
SEMINAR
PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION

Lawyers set petition vs terror body

ABOUT 100 HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYERS are set to petition the courts for urgent remedies to protect the rights of people who may be placed under surveillance by the newly formed Anti-Terror Council (ATC), which they described as a virtual "military-civilian junta."

The newly formed National Union of People's Lawyers (NUPL) yesterday warned that the ATC had been given such sweeping powers that it was capable of violating the rights and civil liberties of the people "on a daily basis, and in gigantic proportions."

The ATC, created by the Human Security Act of 2007 and chaired by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, has the power to maintain dossiers on anybody in the country, freeze bank accounts and force cooperation from media under the guise of coordinating national efforts to eradicate terrorism, the lawyers' group said.

"That the ATC is a civilian-military junta in itself is evidenced by Sec. 54 (of the the Human Security Act or Republic Act 9367) that gives ATC sweeping powers to establish and maintain comprehensive database information on terrorism, terrorist activities and counterterrorism," said NUPL member Neri Javier Colmenares.

Colmenares said the NUPL wants to use a legal remedy known as the writ of habeas data to temper ATC's "sweeping powers" by allowing those in the ATC database the recourse to correct and even destroy patently inaccurate data and analysis gathered through surveillance. *Jerome Aning*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, September 13, 2007
23rd Week in Ordinary Time
John Chrysostom

1st Reading: Col 3:12-17
Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Jesus said to his disciples, "But I say to you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you and pray for those who treat you badly. To the one who strikes you on the cheek, turn the other cheek; from the one who takes your coat, do not keep back your shirt. Give to the one who asks and if anyone has taken something from you, do not demand it back.

"Do to others as you would have others do to you. If you love only those who love you, what kind of graciousness is yours? Even sinners love those who love them. If you do favors to those who are good to you, what kind of graciousness is yours? Even sinners do the same. If you lend only when you expect to receive, what kind of graciousness is yours? For sinners also lend to sinners, expecting to receive something in return.

"But love your enemies and do good to them, and lend when there is nothing to expect in return. Then will your reward be great and you will be sons and daughters of the Most High. For he is kind towards the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Don't be a judge of others and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned; forgive and you will be forgiven; give and it will be given to you, and you will receive in your sack good measure, pressed down, full and running over. For the measure you give will be the measure you receive back."

Commentary

We are God's holy and chosen ones; God's beloved. We then are to clothe ourselves in the garments of our baptism into Jesus and the Spirit. We are to live and act, speak and pray like Jesus. This is a blueprint for building up the life of a believer. These are the basics to be practiced by everyone. We make peace the reality of our lives with each other, in the Body of Christ and in the world.

Jesus' words are like a sword to our hearts and souls: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless and pray for those who harm you. We are to live with the peace of God, without harm, violence or provocation of others. We are to respond with life-giving imagination, creativity, and a chance at conversion in every situation. We are to lend and give generously even if we think that nothing may come back to us. We are to be holy, compassionate, and forgiving, living like God in relation to everyone. What kind of measure will we be getting back today, this year?

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications) & http://www.claretphilippines.org (Claretian Missionaries in the Philippines)

Sun Angel
1st in the Philippines!
MALUNGGAY
HERB TEA
get healthy! live healthy! stay healthy!
Malunggay Leaves are high in vitamins A, B, C and E and minerals such as Iron and Calcium - that a breastfeeding mother needs.
Sun Angel Malunggay Herb Tea is made from 100% Malunggay leaves and you are assured that you are getting all the natural goodness, richness and nutrients in a convenient tea bag.
Sun Angel Malunggay Herb Tea is great for dedicated working - breastfeeding mothers.
✓All Natural
✓No Artificial Colors
✓No Artificial Flavors
✓No Preservatives
✓Caffeine Free
Available in mercury drug
NAKASISIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO
Manufactured by R.L.N. Malunggay Herb Tea
www.malunggayherbtea.com malunggayherbtea@gmail.com
For Inquiries: (632) 776-3695 or (632)767-0147
0917-9100940
BFAD FR NO. 62134

PRINT TOWN

BDO
We're open
as late as 7:00 p.m.
Because time is money.
We understand that when it comes to money matters, every minute counts. But sometimes no matter how hard you plan your day, there's just not enough time to go to the bank during regular banking hours. That's why our banking staff keep our branches open longer. Our branches open earlier or close later, depending on your needs. We adjust to you, it's our passion.
We find ways
MegaLink

Erap: We'll fight, will file motion for reconsideration

From page A1

day vowed to "fight to the end" what he decried as a "political ruling," and thumbed down any offer of pardon.

One of his lawyers, Estelito Mendoza, said the defense would file a motion for reconsideration with the antigraft court.

"It is better that we bring what we perceive are not appropriate conclusions to the [antigraft court] as it might wish to rectify the conclusions itself," Mendoza said.

Mendoza said there were many points that the justices failed to acknowledge in their ruling.

"We raised several defenses but the court did not even mention them, much less overrule them, in this decision," Mendoza said.

He said among the factors the court failed to consider were the fact that it was former Ilocos Sur Rep. Luis "Chavit" Singson who collected kickbacks from "jueteng" and that it was businessman Jaime Dichaves who received the P189-million commission from the sale of the Belle Corporation shares.

"There was no evidence that Estrada knew that Dichaves got the shares from Belle. There was also no evidence that Estrada claimed the check from Belle," he said.

Lawyer Rene Saguisag also said that it had long been proven that the creation of special courts "was programmed to convict."

"This is politics-driven. The Sandiganbayan had no choice but to validate what the Supreme Court sanctioned in 2001," he said.

He was referring to the high court's ruling upholding President Macapagal-Arroyo's claim to the presidency after Estrada was overthrown in a popular revolt.

Talking to reporters, Estrada said: "Of course, this is just the start. We will file a motion for reconsideration, and there's another option to appeal this with the Supreme Court."

His spokesperson, Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, said there were two options available: File a motion for reconsideration with the antigraft court or appeal this directly with the high tribunal.

"He's going to fight this out," Rodriguez said.

After a court session that lasted no more than 12 minutes, Estrada was escorted by a phalanx of security men to the sixth floor holding center for VIPs and ended up comforting his family, allies and supporters.

"When he came up into the holding area, he saw Jackie (Ejercito-Lopez) crying. So he went to Jackie to tell her: 'It's not the end of the world. We'll fight to the end'," said Rod Reyes, Estrada's press secretary.

"He said this is not the end of the world."

Estrada said he wasn't surprised by his conviction, but deplored the ruling as politically motivated, an observation echoed by his former Cabinet secretaries and allies.

He maintained that he was innocent and that the prosecution "failed to prove its case." He said he believed the Sandiganbayan created the special court specifically to convict him.

Doubt at the start

"From the very start, there was already doubt in creating this special court," Estrada said.

"The direct and indirect pressures that have been made on this special court must have been too much too bear," he added in a prepared statement.

Estrada's former Cabinet secretaries, who were holed up at the holding center throughout the proceeding, also decried the verdict.

"This is an attempt to legitimize a government that has not done this country any good. And that means we will suffer a little bit more, a little bit longer from the bad policies," former Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez said.

"Certainly, the verdict was favorable to this government for it to stay."

'Ugly reality'

Former Energy Secretary Mario Tiaoqui said: "To some extent, we were hoping against hope, but the majority of us had expected that this would be the case. We do feel that this is more of a political rather than a legal decision."

Former Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio Morales said: "Politically, there's no other way but to convict him. How can they acquit him? The transfer of power will be questionable if that happens."

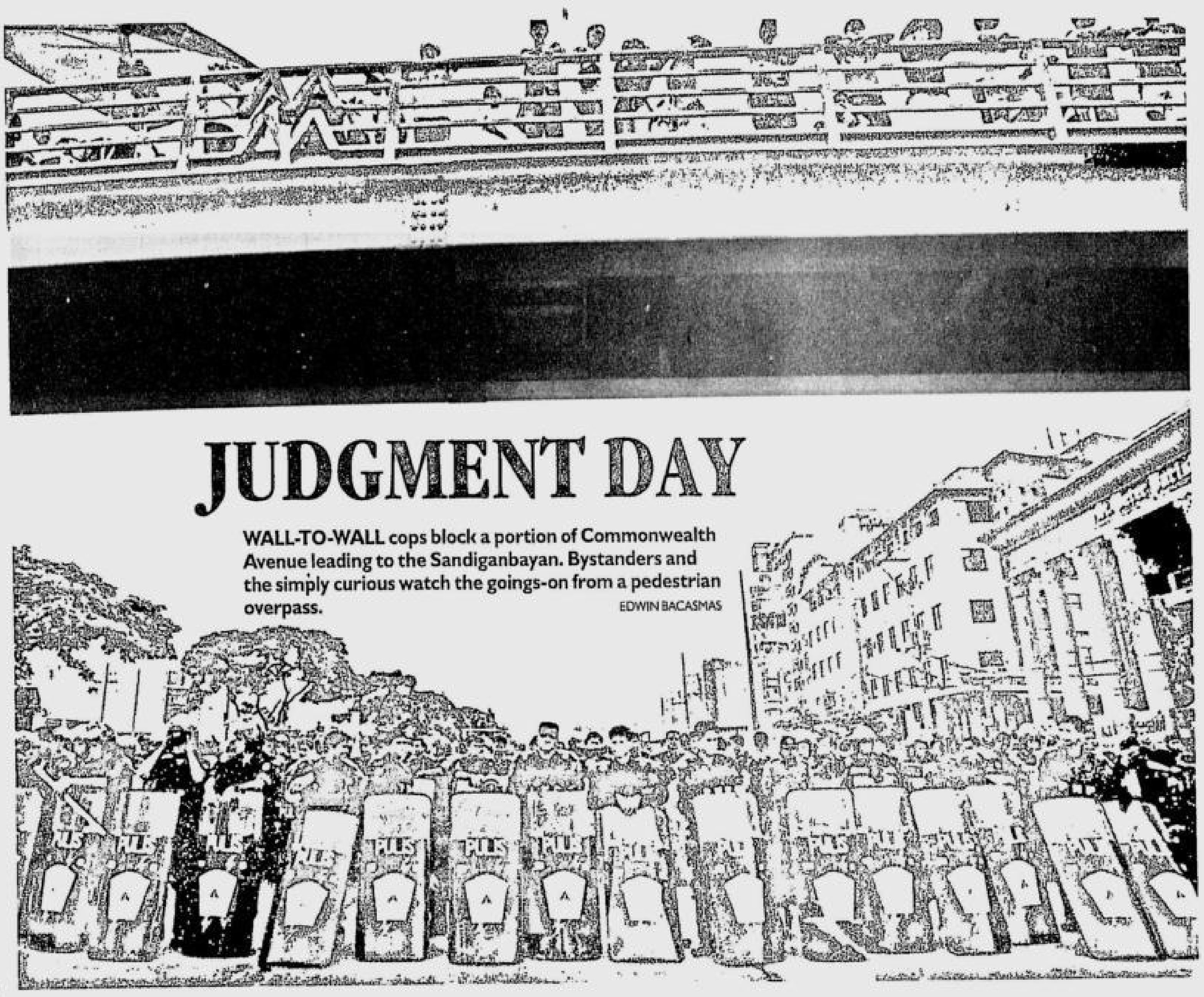
Shariff Kabunsuan Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said of the decision: "It's an ugly reality that he has to face. He has no control over it."

Activist Renato Constantino said: "It was not unexpected. It's the only verdict possible from an illegitimate President. It's a political decision."

Former Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma remained optimistic and said: "The process had to be pursued so that in the end, President will achieve justice."

STAR WITNESS for the prosecution, Chavit Singson, keeps an eye on the TV coverage of Judgment Day for his former bosom buddy.

RANDY HORMILLOSA



JUDGMENT DAY

WALL-TO-WALL cops block a portion of Commonwealth Avenue leading to the Sandiganbayan. Bystanders and the simply curious watch the goings-on from a pedestrian overpass.

EDWIN BACASMAS

WHAT NOW? Estrada confers with his lawyers and allies after the sentencing at the Sandiganbayan. Back to camera standing is Makati Mayor Jojo Binay. Back to camera seated is Estelito Mendoza. Facing the camera beside Estrada is Jose Flaminiano.

REM ZAMORA

Show of force: 'Better overreacted than caught unprepared'

From page A1

the PNP was "overreacting" when it said it would field some 6,000 policemen yesterday for the handing down of the Sandiganbayan's verdict on the plunder, corruption and perjury charges against former President Joseph Estrada.

The number of police personnel was in sharp contrast to some 600 to 700 demonstrators who showed up on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

The Estrada supporters massed at the St. Peter's Church near the Sandiganbayan and several thousands gathered in Makati city later in the day but planned massive rallies elsewhere failed to materialize or were rained out.

Remain in full alert

"We don't consider our preparations overreacting. We are just preparing for any contingency," PNP Director General Oscar Calderon said.

Calderon said the 125,000-strong police force would remain in full alert even after the Sandiganbayan had handed down its guilty verdict on Estrada.

The 2,000-strong troop contingent that the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) placed on standby yesterday remained just that after a thin crowd of the deposed leader's supporters showed up at the Sandiganbayan.

"The preparations made by the AFP (were) based on a worst-case scenario," the military spokesperson, Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, said.

Although no untoward incidents happened, the AFP would remain on red alert, Bacarro said.

Threat analysis

The military is set to conduct a "threat analysis" today to determine whether the alert status can be lowered.

Bacarro said the military would be "taking its cue" from the PNP, the lead agency tasked with ensuring the peace and order in the country's capital as the antigraft court handed down its verdict on the six-year trial.

Calderon said the number of policemen seen on Commonwealth was just right. "We considered the possible worst-case scenarios," he said.

Militant groups said the PNP was turning Metro Manila into a virtual garrison with the deployment of policemen for the verdict.

Peaceful rallies

Calderon attributed the peaceful pro-Estrada rallies to coordination between leaders of pro-Estrada groups and police.

"You saw that whatever agreement they had was followed. So you saw law enforcers there were just standing around. We are really determined to preserve the peace in the area," he said.

Asked if the lean crowd of demonstrators was indicative of the waning strength of antigovernment forces, Calderon refused to comment.

"What I can say is that the PNP and the armed forces are ready for anything and we will observe the rule of the law by respecting everyone's rights," he said.

Now that the verdict on Estrada is out, groups supporting him can "avail themselves of their rights" to protest some more, according to the PNP chief.

Calderon called on leaders of pro-Estrada groups to stay calm. "Let's not agitate the people. Let's observe sobriety in this situation."

The PNP chief also said the security situation was "generally peaceful" and that the protesters on Commonwealth Avenue voluntarily dispersed at around noon.

Calderon also said pursuant to orders from the Sandiganbayan, the PNP would retain the custody and security of Estrada while the former president's lawyers examined their legal remedies.

"The former President will still be with the PNP through our PSPO (Police Security and Protection Office). So we are still the custodians here and our former president will remain in Tanay under our PSPO," he said.

Deployments

Yesterday, a handful of soldiers remained at the AFP grandstand. Another group stayed on the grounds of the AFP's National Capital Region Command (NCRCom) in another part of Camp Aguinaldo, waiting to be deployed.

Two UH-1H Huey choppers that would have provided air monitoring support did not see action either.

They were on standby the whole day beside the AFP grandstand, just across from the military's general headquarters main building where AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. holds office.

While an MG-520 attack helicopter was spotted hovering over the Villamor Air Base at least twice early yesterday morning, Bacarro said he was "not sure" what the aircraft's mission was because there was "no need for an MG" in the military's security preparation for yesterday's promulgation.

At the NCRCom command center, there was no tension, just a relaxed atmosphere, as military officials conferred with their PNP counterparts in assessing the security situation yesterday.

1-stop-shop for housing developers to be set up

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED THE setting up of a one-stop-shop at the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) to speed up the issuance of housing-related permits.

Vice President Noli de Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), said this fast-track scheme for property developers was approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo in the Cabinet Meeting Tuesday.

De Castro said the HLURB, which issues licenses to sell property, will now also be tasked with securing all necessary permits for legitimate developers. These include permits from local government units, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Secure permits

He said the President wanted HLURB itself to secure the necessary permits, rather than merely playing a "facilitative role."

During the Cabinet meeting, De Castro reported that red tape and long delays in the issuance of housing permits were affecting the development of housing projects.

Delays, he said, came from the long and tedious processing of clearances from the DA, unreasonable rates imposed by the LGUs for the issuance of building permits, the DENR's equally long process for the issuance of environmental compliance certificates (ECCs), and titling-related concerns.

De Castro said the President has already issued Executive Order No. 45 (series of 2001) that specifically prescribes periods for the issuance of housing-related certifications, clearances and permits.

Based on the EO, the following agencies should reduce their processing time as follows: DENR—from 90 days to 45 days; DA—from two-to-six months to 30 days; HLURB—from 45 days to 30 days; DAR—from 110 days to 70 days; and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)—from two-to-three months to 30 days.

"It is, however, unfortunate that despite EO 45, red tape is still a valid concern when it comes to applying and getting a housing permit," De Castro said.

Bill seeking to clear poll winners filed

By Norman Bordadora

AN OPPOSITION CONGRESSMAN HAS filed a bill seeking to clear those charged with political crimes if they win a national election.

Nueva Ecija Rep. Eduardo Joson's House Bill No. 2305 or the proposed Sovereign Exoneration Law is expected to clear Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV of the rebellion charge filed against him in connection with the Oakwood mutiny in July 2003.

Trillanes' detention for the non-bailable charge has been keeping him from attending the Senate sessions.

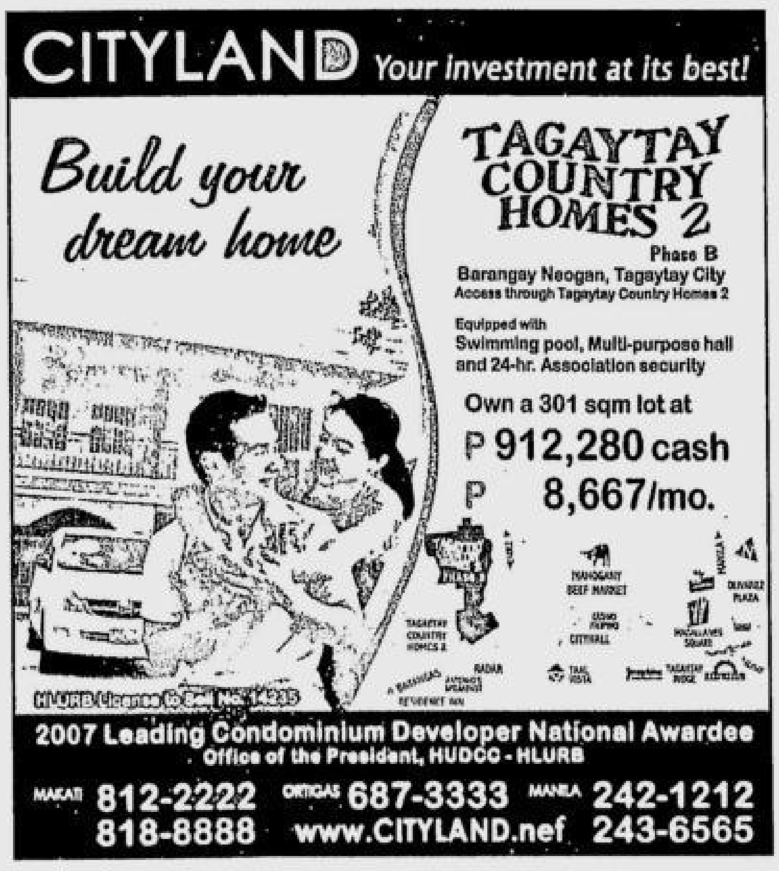
"If the President can give pardon why can't the Filipino people do so as the sovereign?" Joson told reporters.

"If the people elect a person charged with a political crime to national office, it means the people have forgiven him and want him to serve," he added.

Joson's proposed bill covers those who are charged before any court of law, administrative agency or military tribunal with rebellion, coup d'etat, sedition and disloyalty as defined in the violation of Articles 134 to 142 of the Revised Penal Code "which are crimes against public order, directed against the existence of the State, the authority of the government and general public tranquility."

"Sovereign exoneration refers to the power of the sovereign through the elections to dismiss all charges or information against any person accused of committing a political crime or offense," Joson said in his bill.

He said those charged with common crimes such as murder and homicide would not be covered by the bill if it is enacted into law.



CITYLAND Your investment at its best!

Build your dream home

TAGAYTAY COUNTRY HOMES 2
Phase B
Barangay Neogan, Tagaytay City
Access through Tagaytay Country Homes 2

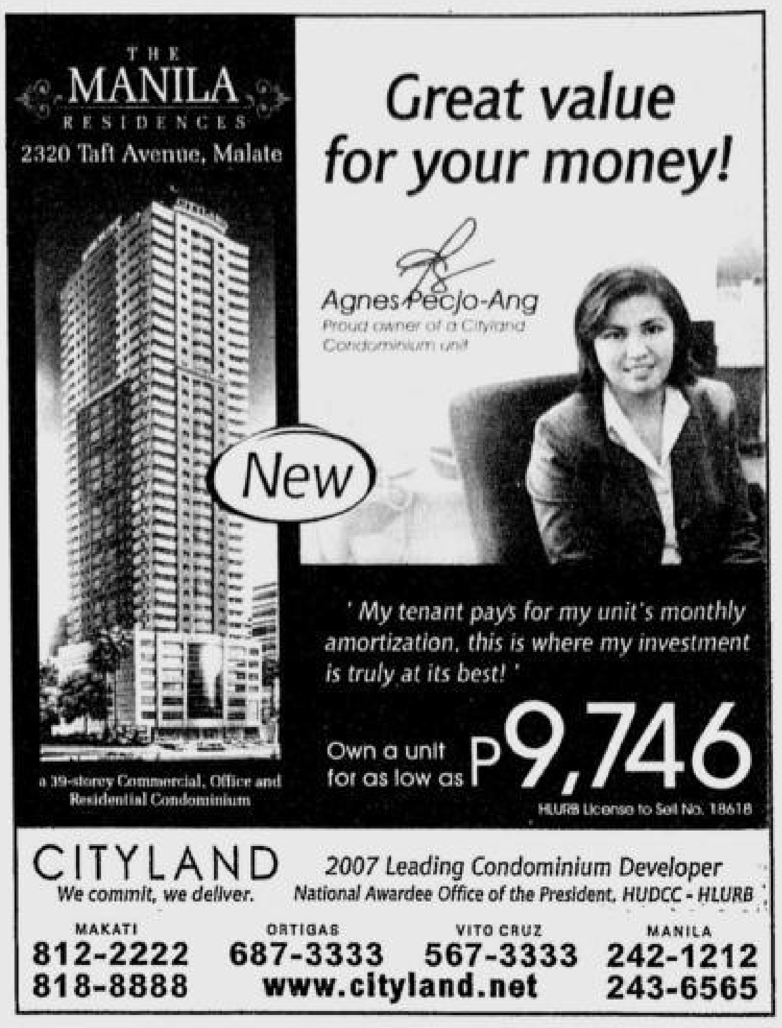
Equipped with
Swimming pool, Multi-purpose hall and 24-hr. Association security

Own a 301 sqm lot at
P 912,280 cash
P 8,667/mo.

HLURB License to Sell No. 14235

2007 Leading Condominium Developer National Awardee
Office of the President, HUDCC - HLURB

MAKATI 812-2222 818-8888 ORTIGAS 687-3333 www.CITYLAND.net MANILA 242-1212 243-6565



THE MANILA RESIDENCES
2320 Taft Avenue, Malate

a 39-storey Commercial, Office and Residential Condominium

New

Great value for your money!

Agnes Pecjo-Ang
Proud owner of a Cityland Condominium unit

' My tenant pays for my unit's monthly amortization, this is where my investment is truly at its best! '

Own a unit for as low as P9,746

HLURB License to Sell No. 18618

CITYLAND
We commit, we deliver.

2007 Leading Condominium Developer
National Awardee Office of the President, HUDCC - HLURB

MAKATI 812-2222 818-8888
ORTIGAS 687-3333
VITO CRUZ 567-3333
www.cityland.net
MANILA 242-1212 243-6565

BDO
MALL OF ASIA

We're open on weekends.

Because sometimes Monday is too late.

We know that sometimes your weekdays just aren't long enough for you to get things done. That's why our banking staff keep our SM mall branches open on weekends. Now, going to the bank doesn't have to get in the way of all the things you need to do. Because your time is more important than money.

We find ways

MegaLink

Member: PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000.

It's enough to make a grown man cry

From page A1

which touch so many states and territorial units. The acts and/or omissions sought to be penalized do not involve simple cases of malversation of public funds, bribery, extortion, theft and graft but constitute plunder of an entire nation resulting in material damage to the national economy."

Congress translated this concept into the Plunder Law under which the Sandiganbayan found Estrada guilty. The verdict of the antigraft court is not yet final. Estrada may still file a motion for reconsideration with the Sandiganbayan or bring an appeal directly to the Supreme Court.

Even if I were to carefully read the more than two hundred pages of the decision, I would still not be in a position to agree or disagree with the verdict. It will take some time even for the defense lawyers to prepare their rebuttal of the conviction.

Complicated case

It is a complicated case, and I doubt that an appellate tribunal will be able to come out with an instantaneous review. Meanwhile, the Sandiganbayan has decided that Estrada, while awaiting finality of the verdict, may continue to stay in his rest house in Tanay, Rizal.

For the purpose of this piece, I shall limit myself to an explanation of the penalty which the Sandiganbayan saw fit to impose. Let me just quote the dispositive portion of the decision as read by the Sandiganbayan Clerk of Court and try to point out some of its implications.

No matter how you look at it, the sentence is enough to make a grown man cry.

It says: "Accordingly, accused former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada is hereby sentenced to suffer the penalty of reclusion perpetua and the accessory penalties of civil interdiction during the period of sentence and perpetual absolute disqualification.

"The period within which accused former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada has been under detention shall be credited to him in full as long as he agrees voluntarily in writing to abide by the same disciplinary rules imposed upon convicted prisoners.

"Moreover, in accordance with Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7080, as amended by Republic Act No. 7659, the Court hereby declares the forfeiture in favor of the government of the following:

1. The total amount of Five Hundred Forty Two Million Seven Hundred Ninety One Thousand Pesos (P545,291,000.00), with interest and income earned, inclusive of the amount of Two Hundred Million Pesos (P200,000,000.00), deposited in the name and account of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation.

2. The amount of One Hundred Eighty Nine Million Pesos (P189,000,000.00), inclusive of interests and income earned, deposited in the Jose Velarde account.

3. The real property consisting of a house and lot dubbed as the "Boracay Mansion" located at No. 100 11th Street, New Manila, Quezon City."

Forfeitures are easily understood.

Made less than a person

But what does reclusion perpetua mean?

It means imprisonment for at least thirty years, unless a person "by reason of his conduct or some other serious cause shall be considered by the Chief Executive as worthy of pardon."

Moreover, in the case of Estrada, his years of confinement since his arrest in 2001 would be deducted from the thirty years.

Over and above imprisonment, reclusion perpetua also carries with it the accessory penalties of "civil interdiction" and "perpetual absolute disqualification."

During the period of sentence, a person under civil interdiction is deprived "of the rights of parental authority, or guardianship, either as to the person or property of any ward, of marital authority, of the right to manage his property and of the right to dispose of such property by any act or any conveyance inter vivos."

In effect, he is made less than a person.

Perpetual absolute disqualification for public office means deprivation of the public offices and employment which the offender may have held even if conferred by popular election, deprivation of the right to vote in any election for any popular office or to be elected to such office, loss of all rights to retirement pay or other pension for any office formerly held.

Pardon

Reclusion perpetua and the accessory penalties that go with it may, of course, all be erased by an absolute pardon.

But pardon may come only after final conviction.

Incidentally, Estrada has already said that he will not accept pardon. It is worth noting, however, that only conditional pardon requires acceptance.

An absolute pardon becomes effective even if not accepted.

The nation waited for more than six years for the Sandiganbayan to pronounce its verdict. It will have to wait a little longer for the Supreme Court's final verdict.

And, of course, today's decision may be reversed by the Supreme Court.

Quality
HEALTHCARE and SERVICE
AT AFFORDABLE PRICES!

HI-PRECISION diagnostics
The country's leader in **quality diagnostic healthcare**

Proud to be ISO CERTIFIED!
TÜV
SPECIFIC FOR MEDICAL LABORATORIES
TÜV SÜD

HOME SERVICE
For busy executives or patients who prefer to have their blood extractions, X-Ray, ECG, ultrasound, or physical examinations done at their specified time and location.

Patients are assured that medical exams will be conducted with utmost quality, care and compassion

online **RESULTS**
Patients can now download their test results straight from our website. All results are stored and available online for 3 years. This feature is password and username protected. Accounts could also be created for doctors / companies who prefer to view patients' results online

www.hi-precision.com.ph

MAIN BRANCH
674 N.S. Amoranto St. cor. Blak-na-Bato, Quezon City
Tel. nos.: (02) 413-7950, 413-7780, 712-3471

MANILA BRANCH | G/F Rm. 102 San Luis Terraces, 638 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila • Tel.: (02) 404-1441
EAST AVENUE BRANCH | No. 18 East Avenue cor. V. Luna Road, Quezon City • Tel.: (02) 435-8228
LAS PIÑAS BRANCH | Units 18 & 19 Las Piñas Commercial Complex, Las Piñas City • Tel.: (02) 875-0597, 875-0678
CEBU MAIN BRANCH | G/F Medalle Building, Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City • Tel.: (032) 256-0151
CEBU CORPORATE BRANCH | WES Building, 28 J. Llorente St., Cebu City • Tel.: (032) 255-4131/33

Special eCard Plus Enrollment

GSIS eCard PLUS
4404 5276 1979 0012
JUAN DE LA CRUZ
VISA

NATIONWIDE
(all GSIS Offices and Home Offices)

Great news to all GSIS active **members** and **pensioners** who still don't have an eCard Plus.

The GSIS will have special eCard Plus enrollment for two Saturdays,

September 15 and September 22.

Just bring your old eCard Plus or two valid IDs to the nearest GSIS office.

For inquiries, comments or suggestions, please email us at pension@gsis.gov.ph

For inquiries other than pension, please email us at crmd@gsis.gov.ph

Government Service Insurance System
GSIS - Kahit Saan, Kahit Kailan Maaasahan

Verdict serves as warning to GMA; she has much to worry about

From page A1

activists numbering between 300 and 800 during the last six years of her administration, emerging corruption scandals over government transactions, and the long-running Senate investigation on the revived "Hello Garci" tapes.

Ms Arroyo has not made a clean breast of her administration's responsibility for the unsolved death squad executions, for which South American dictators, such as Gen. Augusto Pinochet of Chile, were put on trial.

Estrada evaded removal from office by impeachment because the Senate trial was aborted by the suppression of evidence.

That evidence involved corruption charges that went on to develop into the plunder case filed after he was toppled by people power. The closure of the impeachment trial took on a new life in the repackaged corruption case now brought to a conclusion by the Sandiganbayan.

Ms Arroyo has much to worry about and to answer for after 2010.

Air of crisis

Estrada arrived at the Sandiganbayan around 9 a.m. without the fawning entourage that flocked around him in his days of power, and without the howling mobs from the under classes of Metro Manila's teeming shantytowns laying siege to the court.

Only the nervous riot police, some 6,000 of them put on high alert at the court premises and around Malacañang to quell any disturbances from Estrada's urban poor constituency, were the visible manifestation of an air of crisis for an unpopular administration insecure about its public support. The well-armed troops, ringed by armored vehicles, outnumbered the thin ranks of protesters.

Estrada was calm when Teresita Pabulayan, clerk of court of the Sandiganbayan Special Division, read the lengthy decision.

When the clerk of court pronounced the word "guilty" after reading the dispositive portion of Criminal Case No. 26558, Estrada winced—the only emotion he betrayed after hearing the verdict that sentenced him to life imprisonment.

"I've always expected that this will happen," Estrada said in a statement. "This court was created to convict me."

Not the first

Estrada was not the first official to be convicted of the crime of plunder that was established in 1991. The distinction belongs to Dominga Manalili, a Bureau of Internal Revenue cashier, who was sentenced to two life terms after she was found guilty of diverting more than P260 million in withholding tax payments into two bank accounts from 1996 to 1997.

This penalty is nothing compared to the ruling on the Estrada case in which, apart from the life term sentence, the court ordered the forfeiture of P545,291,000 worth of ill-gotten assets of the ousted leader, P189 million in deposits in the Jose Velarde bank account and his fabulous "Boracay Mansion" in New Manila, Quezon City.

The decision underlined the landmark significance of the verdict when it said, the Estrada plunder case "is the first of its kind to be filed charging the highest official of the land . . . of the offense of plunder."

It also pointed out that the case "set historical and legal precedents" on a number of complex issues that were put to the court during the trial, including the constitutionality of the plunder law and the propriety of the house arrest of Estrada while standing trial.

Sandiganbayan message

After that trial run of the plunder law, the draconian arms of the law have caught up with the high and mighty in the Estrada plunder conviction.

The Sandiganbayan verdict seems to send the message that the law is not a dead letter but is a serious exercise in enforcing the notion that public officials, not excluding the highest official of the land, could be held accountable for official acts involving enrichment in office in breach of the ethic that a public office is a public trust.

The verdict on Estrada delivered the warning that the courts of justice are mandated to enforce this accountability and presidents after Estrada are forewarned that they cannot expect immunity from prosecution for corrupt practices involving the wholesale looting of the nation's wealth through abuse of power.

The decision resolved the issue of the consequences of a verdict for political instability to the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo if Estrada had been acquitted.

Prior to the promulgation of the verdict, issues had been raised that with Estrada a free man, his return to politics would make him a rallying point for the opposition to make things difficult for Ms Arroyo.

It was also argued that acquittal would have revived the legitimacy issue over Ms Arroyo's takeover in 2001 through people power and would have encouraged Estrada supporters to press for his reinstatement to serve out his term cut short by Edsa II. Those issues have now become moot.

Less threatening

The question of unrest over a guilty verdict has become less threatening, as reaction from the streets has not been as turbulent as anticipated by the security forces.

For now, Estrada has been sidelined. But the precedent of the plunder decision could catch up with Ms Arroyo. The law has a long arm.

UNITED LABORATORIES, INC.
UNILAB
Healthcare

PDI CIRCULATION GROUP together with UNILAB Pharmaceuticals conducted its 10th leg of medical mission for its valued partners the newspaper vendors or newsboys in Metro Manila. Last Saturday's (September 8, 2007) medical mission was held at Quezon Ave., Quezon City. More than 300 newsboys and their families from the Quezon City are benefited in this mission.

EUGENE ARANETA

Chavit feels vindicated, MJ forgiving, Atong sad

By PDI staff

ESTRADA BEST FRIEND TURNED-WHISTLEblower, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, feels vindicated by the verdict. With business associates in one of his homes in Metro Manila, he watched the Sandiganbayan's promulgation of its decision on TV.

"As I have said, I came out just to tell the truth and I thank God I have been vindicated [by the verdict]," Singson, the chief prosecution witness, told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview. He said he watched the proceedings on television with friends and business partners whom he declined to name.

"I feel vindicated, but I also feel very sorry for those who suffered and sacrificed because of the case," Singson said, citing the murder of his longtime secretary, Marilyn Perez, who was gunned down in Manila in December 2004.

Charlie "Atong" Ang, a former Estrada gambling buddy who pleaded guilty to a lesser offense of indirect bribery in March, said he was saddened by the verdict.

"In so many ways, he had been part of my life. But the plunder case had to reach an ending too," Ang told the INQUIRER in Filipino when reached by phone yesterday. Ang was placed under a two-year probation three months ago by the Sandiganbayan's special division.

He described Estrada as a strong man and he was sure that the ousted President would be able to overcome all his trials. "I heard he still has the chance to appeal the decision. We don't know, maybe he would win in his petition," he added.

Forgiveness

Controversial businessman Mark "MJ" Jimenez, who was Estrada's adviser on Latin American affairs before they parted as enemies, yesterday said he had forgiven the ousted leader and expressed confidence that "something good" would await him in the end.

"I've asked for forgiveness from God and the people. How can I not grant forgiveness? I've forgiven Erap and I hope he will also forgive me," Jimenez told the INQUIRER when asked to comment on the Sandiganbayan's verdict.

"I was once jailed. I know how it feels but all of these will be a blessing and a grace of God," said Jimenez, who had spent almost two years in a US prison for illegal campaign contributions. "I know that in the end, when the dust has settled, all of these will turn into something good and beautiful."

Disappeared

As to Estrada's other coaccused—Yolanda Ricaforte, Jaime Dichaves, Alma Alfaro, Eleuterio Tan and Delia Rajas—they are either being hunted by authorities or have simply disappeared.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is still trying to locate Yolanda Ricaforte, Estrada's alleged personal auditor who kept track of collections from illegal gambling, according to the National Bureau of Investigation.

Ricarforte, the wife of former Tourism Undersecretary Orestes Ricaforte, was believed to have fled to the United States after Estrada's ouster in 2001 and is in the FBI's wanted list, it added.

"There had already been a request for her extradition, but the FBI has yet to find her," said NBI Interpol chief Claro de Castro Jr. "But they're continuously looking for her."

De Castro said the bureau had no new information about Dichaves, Alfaro, Tan and Rajas. Dichaves was allegedly a member of Estrada's "Midnight Cabinet" who claimed ownership of the Jose Velarde bank account for which the ousted President had signed.

Tan, Alfaro and Rajas were reported to have opened the bank accounts into which the P130 million in tobacco tax kickbacks from Ilocos Sur—supposedly intended for Estrada—were allegedly funneled.

Stern warning

Singson said Estrada's case should serve as a stern warning to all Filipinos that "there is a working justice system" in the country. "[The case serves as a reminder that] nobody can escape from the arms of the law, even a former president."

"Don't blame me, blame your 'lame' lawyers, especially Rene Saguisag," he said.

Singson said the verdict would not be complete until Estrada landed behind bars in Muntinlupa. "True justice is when he is treated like other criminals and not given special privileges like living in a rest house in Tanay," he said. *With reports from Leoncio Balbin Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon; Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Jocelyn R. Uy, Cynthia D. Balana and Tina G. Santos*

THE BEAMING LOOK OF A FREE MAN: Estrada coaccused, lawyer Edward Serapio, with wife Grace, leaves the Sandiganbayan premises following his acquittal.

BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

It's all over …

From page A1

"My wife and I went home to tell the good news to our daughter. She was home because they didn't have classes at Poveda," the lawyer said. The family later went to the nearby Sto. Domingo Church on Quezon Avenue "to give thanks."

Serapio, Estrada's assistant for political affairs and one of the incorporators of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation that was believed to be a conduit of the ousted President's "jueteng" payoffs, was charged six years ago in the P4-billion plunder case. But he, together with Jinggoy, was allowed by the court to post a P500,000 bail on Sept. 12, 2003, and even managed to practice law.

Serapio said he did not regret having been associated with Estrada.

While he was happy with the court's decision, he can't be fully glad because of the decision on Estrada, he said.

"I believe the prosecution's presentation of evidence was not strong enough," he said.

"My family was solidly behind me," he said. His wife Grace, an interior designer, didn't have any difficulty with her clients as their daughter didn't have problems in school, he added.

"My life after I was able to post bail was rather easy. Except for the fact that I was not allowed to travel abroad and I had a Damocles' sword over my head," he said.

Serapio said he had no regular clients but was able to engage in corporate lawyering. Just recently, he put up a law firm, Marcos, Ochoa, Sanchez and Tan, with his classmates from the Ateneo Law School.

Marlboro
TXT
REVOLUTION
2 DUCATI 749 SUPERBIKES

Just text in the unique code found inside any **Marlboro Flip-Top Box 20's** and get the chance to win this **DUCATI 749 SUPERBIKE** in the electronic raffle draw!
Or win thousands of instant prizes by texting in a winning code!

200 OAKLEY Ducati Monster Dog Sunglasses
300 RUDY PROJECT Watches
500 DUCATI Backpacks
3000 DUCATI Key Rings

To join, register by texting **MREG** space**<LAST NAME>/<FIRST NAME>/<DATE OF BIRTH IN MMDDYYYY FORMAT>/<CITY or TOWN>** and send to **2929** (registration is free)
Example: MREG Tobias/Rob/06121989/QC

Then text **MTXT** space**<UNIQUE CODE>** and send to **2929**
(P2.50 for Smart and Globe and P2.00 for Sun / per entry)
Example: MTXT IS6S8GBB

FOR DETAILS, CALL: **895-9999** (GMA) • **1-800-10-895-9999** (Provincial)
Promo period is from August 13 to October 7, 2007 • Draw Date: October 8, 2007
Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0763, Series of 2007 Open only to adult smokers 18 years old and above

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous
to your health

GUILTY OF PLUNDER ON 2 COUNTS

From page A1

The event was marked by irony, with Estrada the biggest fish to be convicted in the antigraft courthouse he himself inaugurated during his presidency on June 1, 1999.

The building on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, displays his name on a marker "dedicating" the courthouse "to the Filipino people in their fight against graft and corruption in the government."

It was a grim moment for the former cinema idol and political kingpin, who was impeached in November 2000 and driven out of Malacañang by a people power uprising two months later.

But the special division created to try him declared him innocent of perjury, a lesser charge citing him for underreporting his assets in 1999.

It also acquitted his son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, and his former legal counsel, Edward Serapio, who were also charged along with six others in the P4-billion plunder case.

Estrada will stay "until further notice" at his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, his detention quarters since 2004, according to an order issued in open court by Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro.

FLASH OF ANGER: In a rare public display of temper, ex-President Estrada appears to be upset with something or other shortly before he boards his van to leave the Sandiganbayan following his guilty verdict. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

'Not once but twice'

In a statement issued shortly after the promulgation, Senator Estrada assailed the court for purportedly following Malacañang's dictates.

He said his father had suffered "a miscarriage of justice not once but twice," referring to the latter's aborted impeachment trial in 2001.

"With due respect to our magistrates, I am deeply convinced that our case was decided not on the basis of merits ... but to justify the unconstitutional and forcible removal of a sitting President ... This verdict is intended to legitimize the occupancy of an illegal tenant in Malacañang," the senator said.

He predicted mass actions protesting the decision: "No doubt our people will receive this with moral outrage and disgust, knowing that it was a decision contrived to avoid the anomalous situation where a legitimately elected President was charged and illegally removed, only to be subsequently exonerated."

He also said he was "appalled" that the verdict was supposedly leaked at least a month before the promulgation.

Gasps in courtroom

The ousted President himself correctly predicted the verdict on Monday, quoting "reliable sources."

Despite the speculations preceding the promulgation, gasps were heard across the packed courtroom as the plunder verdict was read out by clerk of court Teresita Pabulayan.

"So ordered," Pabulayan said in conclusion at 9:28 a.m., with the two Estradas and Serapio standing facing her at the center aisle, where three chairs had been especially placed for them.

Standing behind Estrada at the reading of the decision were two members of his defense team, father and son Jose and Jay Flaminiano.

When the reading was over, Estrada shook his head slightly and was the first to take his seat among the accused. He coughed once, kept his head bowed for about two minutes, and then spoke in a whisper to Serapio.

'He's ready'

Addressing the court, the elder Flaminiano asked for time on behalf of the other defense lawyers to "study our options" after going over the 212-page decision in the plunder case.

As Flaminiano spoke, lead defense counsel Rene Saguisag rose to confer with Estrada.

Saguisag subsequently told the court that his client had "absolutely no desire for special treatment" with regard to the terms of his imprisonment.

"If it means he moves to [the national penitentiary in] Muntinlupa today, he's ready, your honor," Saguisag said.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio rose and said something about the defense team being "at a loss." He was cut short by Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta.

Saguisag shot back at Villa-Ignacio, letting out what was probably the only remark said in anger during the proceedings.

Silent weeping

"Till the very end we have to put up with snide remarks. There shouldn't be a sore winner," said Saguisag, who is himself known for acerbic language during hearings and who was once ordered to leave the courtroom after a shouting match with a justice.

De Castro intervened, saying: "Never mind, never mind ... We started well and I hope we end well."

As he was being led out of the courtroom, Estrada, eyes red, said: "Well, as we've expected [and said] before, this court was created to convict me."

"I subjected myself to the rule of law, against the advice of my friends," he said, adding that facing the charges at the Sandiganbayan was then deemed "the only venue" for him to maintain his innocence after his impeachment trial was cut short by a walkout by the prosecutors.

"I took a gamble," said the hugely popular politician who had managed to turn his well-known penchant for wine, women and gambling into a winning charm.

"I thought the rule of law would prevail over here. This is really a kangaroo court. This is a political decision," The Associated Press quoted him as saying.

Behind Estrada, his wife, former Sen. Loi Ejercito, and their children Jinggoy and Jackie, began to shed tears.

But it was a silent weeping, broken by agitated reporters shouting for a statement from the new convict.

Open and shut

The promulgation was like an open-and-shut case.

Senator Estrada arrived at the courtroom at around 9:05 a.m., accompanied by his wife Precy and brother Jude.

The ousted President walked in eight minutes later with his wife Loi, Jackie and her husband Beaver Lopez, and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, his son by former actress Guia Gomez.

Among Estrada's political allies in attendance were Mayors Jejomar Binay of Makati, Alfredo Lim of Manila, Toby Tiangco of Navotas, and Edward Hagedorn of Puerto Princesa, and Representatives Crispin Remulla of Cavite and Rufus Rodriguez of Cagayan de Oro.

A smiling Estrada managed to work the gallery, pressing flesh, before the justices entered and had the session declared open.

After leading the court's traditional opening prayer, De Castro asked the defense panel if it would like the verdict in the plunder and perjury cases read in full—a right accorded accused parties.

Flaminiano replied that at Estrada's "request," only the dispositive portion—or the final paragraphs containing the verdict—may be read.

The acquittal in the perjury case was read out first. Minutes later, Estrada was declared guilty of plunder "beyond reasonable doubt." *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

IN THE KNOW

THE ANTI-PLUNDER LAW (REPUBlic Act No. 7080), as amended, defines plunder as the direct or indirect amassing by a public official of at least P50 million in ill-gotten wealth through a combination or a series of acts like:

- misappropriating public funds
- receiving kickbacks in connection with a government contract
- illegal disposition of government assets
- getting shares of stock, equity or a promise of future employment in a business undertaking
- establishing agricultural, industrial or commercial monopolies
- implementing orders intended to benefit particular persons or special interests
- using his/her position to enrich him/herself at the expense of the Filipino people

The penalty for plunder is reclusion perpetua (up to 40 years in jail) to death, according to the amended law. However, the death penalty was abolished last year.

Once convicted of plunder, a public official loses all retirement and gratuity benefits.

The ill-gotten wealth, as well as its "interests and other incomes and assets including the properties and shares of stock derived from the deposit or investment thereof," will also be forfeited to the State. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

Hush blankets holding room for Estrada family

From page A1

The circle, all dressed in white *polo barong,* sat in a huddle at a table. Friends and relatives were seated on chairs arranged against the walls, quietly talking.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's half-sister, Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, wearing dark glasses, was among the downcast assembly.

Dead air

Things came to a standstill when Estrada entered the room, with his red-clad wife Loi Ejercito, daughter Jackie Lopez, and friend Sandra Cam leading the entourage that included his sons Jude Ejercito, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim. (Cam was among the whistle-blowers who faced a Senate inquiry into the "jueteng" scandal involving the Arroyos in 2005.)

Sen. Loren Legarda later arrived, greeting the former first lady and senator with a kiss.

At the sight of Estrada and his weeping wife and daughter, some of the guests were also moved to tears.

There was a minute or two of dead air, marked by muffled sobs at various intervals.

Estrada took a chair at the head table and gave his guests a despondent smile.

It was Lim who spoke first, telling the ousted President that the Supreme Court was his only hope: *"Sa Korte Suprema na lang ang pag-asa mo, pare."*

"It doesn't matter ... What is important is we have the people on our side," Estrada said, and gave his daughter a consoling peck on the forehead.

Engaging his guests in small talk before meeting with his lawyers, Estrada said his suspicion about the antigraft court's Special Division being created to convict him had just been confirmed.

He also noted the multitude of policemen deployed around the Sandiganbayan days before the promulgation.

Police chopper

Just as abbreviated as the court proceedings was Estrada's trip back to his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal.

After the meeting with his lawyers, Estrada was airlifted to his estate in a police chopper, surprising the members of the media who had expected his police escorts to take him back to Tanay the same way they had brought him to court—by land.

Estrada left the courthouse at 11:40 a.m. in a black Ford E-150 van, escorted by members of the Police Security and Protection Office and the Special Action Force, and tailed by two ambulances and a number of media vehicles.

His supporters, who had anxiously awaited his convoy's departure, lined the sidewalk and filled a nearby footbridge, all seeking to catch a glimpse of him.

The media vans tailing the high-speed convoy expected the lead vehicles to head straight to Tanay. But it turned left to the Batasan Complex.

It took only a few minutes for Estrada's van to stop at its destination—the helipad where two police choppers were waiting, their pilots suited for the flight.

Loi Ejercito was seen alighting from the van. Estrada followed minutes later, close-in escorts walking alongside, and police officers serving as a shield.

Still, the convict managed to air a message to the public.

REUTERS
NEWS

DEJECTED: Former Sen. Loi Ejercito with son Jude accommodates some questions from the media despite the big bad news in court. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

"My message to the Filipino people is for [them] to pray for me and especially for our country. *Ipagdasal ninyo po ako, at higit sa lahat ang ating bansa,"* he said, walking slowly, as police tried in vain to head reporters off.

"What is important to me is the overwhelming acquittal by the people," he added.

Estrada was assisted into a chopper and seated in between two escorts. The chopper lifted off, following its twin that had flown seconds ahead.

Within 10 to 15 minutes, Estrada was back in Tanay.

'They'll have their day'

On the phone, Loi Ejercito told the INQUIRER that the family was saddened by the verdict.

She assailed the court for its decision to pin down her husband for accepting "jueteng" money and for insider trading at Belle Resources Corp., saying both cases did not involve public money.

"What is that? There were no public funds involved. If it was plunder, it should be at least malversation of public funds," she said, adding:

"Those at the top, they will have their day."

Said JV Ejercito in a text message to reporters: "The Sandiganbayan had to convict President Estrada to justify the power grab of 2001, thus legitimizing the Arroyo regime."

The mayor said the court's acquittal of his half-brother Jinggoy and his father's former legal counsel Edward Serapio was an attempt to "soften" the impact of the verdict.

"Our lives will move on. He will stay in Tanay. But if he gets sent to Muntinlupa, we will face it," he said.

Loi Ejercito said her husband was not surprised at the verdict. "We cannot get a fair judgment," she quoted him as saying.

"I am proud of him," she declared. "He faced [the trial] even though he had been offered to leave the country."

The former first lady said it was a bittersweet verdict for their eldest son Jinggoy, who was relieved that he was acquitted of the charges but depressed over his father's fate.

She said the Ejercito-Estrada clan would continue its vigil at the family residence on Polk Street in Greenhills, San Juan.

Mayor Ejercito said the clan would pray for his father's next legal moves to be successful.

Both he and Loi Ejercito expressed gratitude to the Estrada supporters who stood by the ex-President for six years.

'More powerful than GMA'

At the Senate, a grim-faced Jinggoy Estrada vented his anger on his father's accuser, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, whom he described as the "most powerful" person in the Philippines, more powerful than Ms Arroyo herself.

"If there is a person who should be equally guilty in the eyes of the Sandiganbayan, that must be Chavit Singson. Gloria (Ms Arroyo) is afraid of him; the justices believed in his testimony, even though his only piece of evidence is a ledger. Where is justice here?" the senator said.

He vehemently denied that Singson had stood as godfather at his wedding.

Jinggoy attended the Senate session yesterday afternoon despite being disheartened by the Sandiganbayan verdict earlier in the day.

He gamely faced his colleagues and the media, saying: "I'm not concerned about myself. I'm concerned about my father. He did nothing wrong; he did not steal. The Sandiganbayan based its decision solely on the word of a corrupt official."

Jinggoy, who was soft-spoken and red-eyed throughout the interview with reporters, added: "It was a very bad decision."

Miriam's advice

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, a former Estrada ally who is now a staunch defender of Ms Arroyo, sat beside Jinggoy during the media interview and liberally gave legal advice on his father's options.

She agreed with Jinggoy's view that much of the plunder charge involved jueteng kickbacks that, albeit illicit, were not public funds, and that the prosecution was not able to prove that the ex-President had received at least P50 million—the minimum amount for plunder—from tobacco excise taxes.

"If they convicted my father because of jueteng, they should have also convicted me. If they acquitted me, they should have also acquitted him. Evidence against me was weak, and so was his," Jinggoy said.

He said this was not a case of sour grapes. "I am just expressing my disappointment." *With reports from Kristine L. Alave and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

8.2 quake triggers tsunami in Indonesia

JAKARTA—A MASSIVE EARTHquake hit Indonesia on Wednesday, triggering a tsunami in the town of Padang and warnings for much of the Indian Ocean region, meteorological officials said. The tremor caused tall buildings to sway in a least four countries.

The underwater quake had a magnitude of 8.2 and hit at about 6:10 p.m., the US Geological Survey said.

A wave of up to three meters was reported to have hit Padang about 20 minutes after the quake, said Suhardjono, a senior official with Indonesia's meteorological agency, who goes by only one name.

Several buildings were damaged and at least one car showroom totally collapsed, according to the news portal detik.com, which said people were searching to see if anyone was inside.

The quake was centered 105 kilometers southwest of Sumatra island at a depth of 15.6 km, the USGS said.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issued a tsunami warning for wide areas of the region.

"Earthquakes of this size have the potential to generate a widespread destructive tsunami that can affect coastlines across the entire Indian Ocean Basin," it said, warning that it could hit nearby countries within one to three hours.

Indonesia's meteorological agency lifted its alert more than two hours after the quake, saying there was no longer a potential for a destructive wave.

Panicked residents said many houses were destroyed and electricity and communication cut in Bengkulu, the Sumatran town closest to the epicenter, and that people were running from their houses in all directions.

"We think our neighborhood is high enough. God willing, if the water comes, it will not touch us here," Wati Said told The Associated Press by mobile telephone. "We are all afraid."

The quake caused tall buildings to sway in at least four countries.

Office workers streamed down the stairwells in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, 600 km away. Some people in high-rises in neighboring Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand also felt the quake. *AP*

Pamalakaya puts DA usec under fire over Jpepa deal

By Amy Remo

FISHERFOLK Alliance Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas on Wednesday assailed Agriculture Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano for accusing the group of twisting the truth regarding the controversial Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement.

"Jpepa is a national agenda since the collective interest of 87 million Filipino people is at stake. It is so unfortunate that Serrano still think that those who oppose Jpepa are leftists obsessed with their leftist agenda," Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap said in a statement.

The word war between Pamalakaya and Serrano was reportedly sparked after the group said Japan's P125 million fertilizer grant to the Philippines was used to soften the position of senators on the Japan-RP economic pact.

Pamalakaya said this would allow Japan's factory ships to fish for tuna in Philippine waters.

Serrano meanwhile said Jpepa provisions do not allow the entry of Japanese fishing vessels in Philippine waters.

According to Pamalakaya's statement, these provisions pertain to the rules of Origin, under which plants, animals or minerals obtained or originating from the Philippines, and exported to Japan or vice-versa, are given preferential tariff concessions.

Pamalakaya said Article 28, for instance, is open to loopholes for tax avoidance or evasion such as when a factory ship or vessel is flag-registered in Panama, or countries other than Japan but its head office is in Japan.

The group added that the underreporting of the catch is prevalent in the Philippines and in other countries.

It said that local governments are not capable of monitoring the catch of Japanese factory ships 24/7, aside from the fact that Japan will not allow domestic monitoring entities to watch their fishing operations in Philippine waters.

Once Japanese factory ships are allowed to fish in Philippine waters, Pamalakaya said a single vessel could produce 50,000 metric tons of frozen tuna a year equivalent to $242.5 million in gross profits per year.

The group explained that if a Japanese commercial fishing company deploys four factory ships to fish in Philippine waters, the combined catch would be 200,000 metric tons and the combined gross earnings would be $970 million or roughly P43.65 billion.

"This is way above the P125 million fertilizer grant, the Japanese government had given to marginalized farmers and fishermen across the country," it added.

▲

SAINT MARY'S
College of San Juan
[illegible]
Wishes to congratulate
- James Kenneth Go Chua
- Francis Peter Eduard Espenilla Sly
- Janete Buencosejo Sonido
- Jay Santillan San Pedro
- Jimenez Ma. Alfredo Geolingo Bite
- Maria Katrina Paola Pirante Pableo
- Noelred Ungos Bruce
- Rosalinda Limjoco Fernandez
- Vanessa Josephine Lagman Cabral
- Veronica Aguilar Yu

for successfully passing the June 2007 [illegible]
[illegible]
7218938 to 39

Idec
[illegible]
The New Split Type Aircon
Wall-Mounted
1hp-P16,500
1.5hp-P18,500, 2hp-P25,000
2.5hp-P30,000, 4hp-P43,000
Floor Mounted
3hp-P39,500 5hp-P55,000
Ceiling Mounted 3hp-P39,500
4hp-P52,000 6hp-P65,000
Ceiling Cassette 3hp-P50,000
Also Available Window Type Aircon
Free Installation!
Call:243-2610;241-4731;(0919)2482183
Available at: MC Home Depot / Fort & Ortigas
Cebu-(032)3465498 Davao-(082)2358821 www.idec-aircon.com

People's Choice
HALL OF FAME
voted by readers
SUPER BRAND
Reader's Digest Philippines
GOLD 2006
GOLD 2005
PLATINUM 2004
GOLD 2003
GOLD 2002
GOLD 2001
GOLD 2000
GOLD 1999
Reader's Digest
TRUSTED BRAND 2007
voted by consumers
PLATINUM
PILOT
Refillable Ball Point
Stick Pens

BPS-F
Slip proof grip and balanced design ensures comfortable, effortless writing
Available in Black, Red Blue
Philippine Exclusive Distributor
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
571 Q. Paredes St., Binondo, Manila
P.O. BOX 1601 els.: 243-6912 to 14 Fax: 2425671
PILOT CORPORATION
Tokyo, Japan

CHINA BUSINESS TOUR
CANTON FAIR 2007
Direct Flight: Via Cebu Pacific / China Southern
depart October 14, 15, 16, 17 (phase 1)
October 24, 26, 28 (phase 2)
PAL Via Hong Kong
depart October 14, 15, 16, 17 (phase 1)
October 24, 25, 26, 27 (phase 2)
FOR ONLY US$428/488
376-2725 0917-7908525 (ELVIS)
415-2429 0922-8104112

BE A CHEF
IN 10 DAYS !!
Garde manger, Butchery
[illegible], Chinese, Japanese
Italian, Spanish, Fusion
in2skills@gmail.com
[illegible]

THE GENERICS PHARMACY
20% DISCOUNT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS
MABISA na, MATIPID pa !!!
08-10

Amoxicillin Cap 500 mg	3.60 / cap
Carbocisteine Cap 500 mg	1.80 / cap
Glibenclamide Tab 5 mg	1.50 / tab
Mefenamic Acid Cap 500 mg	1.40 / cap
Metformin Tab 500 mg	2.30 / tab
Multi-Vitamin Cap	2.10 / cap
Paracetamol Tab 500 mg	0.50 / tab
Vitamin B-Complex Tab	1.20 / tab

NOW FRANCHISING - capital P 350,000 to P 500,000
Call Global Franchise Mktg at 910-6544 to 45
available at
QUEZON CITY (1) 459 Quezon Ave corner Banawe St. 396-5184;
(2) 157 A. Bonifacio Avenue corner Pag-asa St. 411-3002;
(3) Lung Center Compound, Quezon Ave 924-6101 loc 500
PASAY (4) 2602-B Taft Avenue corner Protacio St., 551-4046;
PASIG (5) St. Francis Square, Ortigas 632-1010 loc 279;
(6) 24-B Industria corner Commercio Kapasigan 0918-520-2644
CAVITE (7) Gran Via Central, Tierra Nevada, Gen Trias 0922-992-6759
MANILA (8) 2683 Juan Luna St. Gagalangin, Tondo 0922-314-1914;
(9) 806 Arlegui St. Quiapo 0921-960-0208;
BULACAN (10) Lower Northern Hills, Malhacan, Meycauayan 0922-860-0204
MALABON (11) Ever Grocery, Gov. Pascual cor M.H. del Pilar 0922-827-8374
MANDALUYONG (12) 153 P. Cruz St. Brgy. New Zaniga near Shaw 535-3547
FREE MEDICAL CHECK-UP at Taft, Pasay (Tues,Fri); St. Francis Square (Daily); Ever, Malabon (M,W,Th,Sat)
www.thegenericspharmacy.com

David-Link® "Your office machine-solution provider"
HEAVY DUTY BINDERS
Wire Binder WB-4025D
Plastic Comb Binder
40 Holes (14") 24 Holes (14") BM-C24D
MIMEOGRAPHING MACHINE
• Adjustable Printing Position • Pre-Set Counter
SO-8800
• 120 copies per minute • Dual Operation
BILL COUNTERS
• UV Counterfeit Detector • 900 notes per minute
MC-2088 MC-6700
• UV Counterfeit Detector • Variable Speed • Preset and Addition Mode • Note Detection
CHECKWRITERS
• Multi-Currency 14 Digits • HEAVY DUTY CW-1680
• 10-Digits • With Calculator • Embossed Printing • HEAVY DUTY KI-880
LAMINATOR
13 INCHES LM-330A
• Adjustable Temperature • 4 HEAVY DUTY Rollers
Other Sizes 9 & 18 inches
BUNDY CLOCKS
• Two Color Printing • W/ Musical Melody • Auto Card Feed • Auto Column Shifting • Back-up Battery • HEAVY DUTY
CALL NOW! 815-1046 Website: edavid-link.com

Most Complete Line of Cleaning Equipment
P3,700
Commando 707
1500 PSI/2.5 HP
With Complete Accessories
High Pressure Washer For Personal Use
ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT for CARWASH BUSINESS
Now Only P39,500
AR-2200
2200 PSI, Pro
TRX
1900 PSI, Pro
Golden Jet
2900 PSI, 7.2 KW, Pro
Idrolava
1200 W. Pro
Guaranteed The Lowest Price In The Market
INDUSTRIAL HIGH PRESSURE WASHER UP TO 7000 PSI AVAILABLE
Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
Exclusively Distributed by
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
MAIN: 1851 M. OROSA ST., MALATE, MLA.
Tel. Nos.: 5245290 • 5244328 • 5240529
Sun Cellular: 0922-8825326 • 0917-7896670
646 QUEZON AVE. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

The First and the Biggest Ostrich Farm in the Philippines
Established 1996. Accredited by the PAWB-DENR, BAI-DA and NMIC-DA
BIG BIRD
OSTRICH CHICKS
2-3 WEEK OLD
P8,000.00 per head
FOB Cagayan de Oro City
Also available Juveniles and Breeders.
We also sell Big Bird Ostrich Meat, Ostrich Eggshells and Ostrich Leather/Leather Products.
For more information, please call:
PHILIPPINE OSTRICH & CROCODILE FARMS, INC.
Limketkai Corporate Office, Cagayan de Oro City
9000 Philippines
Phone: +63(88)857.5988
e-mail:pork@ostrich.com.ph
www.ostrich.com.ph

NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Application For Scholarships 2008-2009

We are pleased to offer scholarships to outstanding candidates to pursue full-time Masters programmes at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in August 2008.

(A) ASEAN Graduate Scholarship

Open to nationals of member countries of ASEAN* (except Singapore) to pursue a full-time Masters programme in one of the following:

(a) Master of Arts (Contemporary China)
(b) Master of Business Administration
(c) NTU-Waseda Double MBA
(d) Master of Science (Accountancy, Applied Finance, International Business, Management, Marketing, Strategy or Technology Management)
(e) Master of Mass Communication
(f) Master of Science in:
Bioinformatics, Biomedical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Communications Engineering, Communication Software & Networks, Computer Control & Automation, Computer Integrated Manufacturing, Digital Media Technology, Embedded Systems, Environmental Engineering, Financial Engineering, Human Factors Engineering, Information Studies, Information Systems, International Construction Management, International Political Economy, International Relations, Knowledge Management, Logistics, Maritime Studies, Mechanical Engineering, Mechanics & Processing of Materials, Offshore Engineering, Power Engineering, Precision Engineering, Signal Processing, Smart Product Design, Strategic Studies.

*ASEAN members include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

(B) APEC SCHOLARSHIP

NTU is also offering APEC Scholarships to outstanding candidates from the following APEC member economies to pursue a full-time MBA programme at the University:

- Australia
- Brunei Darussalam
- Canada
- Chile
- People's Republic of China
- Hong Kong, China
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Mexico
- Malaysia
- New Zealand
- Peru
- Philippines
- Papua New Guinea
- Russia
- Chinese Taipei
- Thailand
- United States of America
- Vietnam

For more details, visit www.ntu.edu.sg/gradstudies/Coursework+Programmes/

Please note that only online applications are accepted.

Application period: 1 November 2007 - 31 December 2007

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
PROCTER & GAMBLE DISTRIBUTING (PHILIPPINES) INC. 6750 Ayala Office Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ju Majd Canadian	Financial Analyst
ENVIROKONSULT EQUIPMENT & SERVICES INC. 9030 Feria Rd., Pook La Paz, Old Balara, Quezon City	Chin Fuan Lee Malaysian	Technical Consultant
eTELECARE GLOBAL SOLUTIONS, INC. 20/F Cyberzone Bldg., Eastwood Cyberpark, Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Rondell Ferrer German	Client Manager
PHILJOY.COM TOURS AND CONSULTING CORP. Unit 105 Residencia, 8888 Pearl Drive St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Soongeol Kim Korean	Sales Manager
COPY PRNT PLUS INC. 101 Kalayaan Ave., Quezon City	Chansuk Jo (wife of KIM) Korean	Sales Manager
PEOPLESUPPORT (PHILIPPINES) INC. PeopleSupport Center, Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Tal Tomer Mashat American	Director of Operations
SEOLMA THRIFT SHOP 109 A, Mabini St., Kapasigan, Pasig City	Ukjae Lee Korean	Foreign Consultant

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC-Regional Director

(PDI - Sept. 13, 2007)

Estrada's fate lies in GMA hands

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE FATE OF FORMER PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada now lies in the hands of President Macapagal-Arroyo following the guilty verdict handed down by the Sandiganbayan.

Although Estrada can still seek judicial relief, the ball is now in the Malacañang court.

The convicted leader, who turned 70 on April 19, can be pardoned by Ms Arroyo who has made it a policy to grant executive clemency to inmates 70 years old and older.

"Yes, why not?" said Presidential Legal Adviser Sergio Apostol, hinting that the possibility of a presidential pardon for Estrada was already being discussed in the highest echelons of power.

Apostol, a former Regional Trial Court judge and one of the public prosecutors during the aborted impeachment trial of Estrada in the Senate, told the INQUIRER that "this pardon is absolutely within the discretion of the President."

He did not elaborate, saying: "I cannot talk now. I'm still going to Malacañang."

Apostol met with the Ms Arroyo hours after the Sandiganbayan found Estrada guilty of plunder.

Apostol explained that a pardon, or the grant of executive clemency, was unlike an amnesty which required the "participation of Congress."

Speaker Jose de Venecia said earlier that a pardon or amnesty for Estrada should be "a consensus of all."

Maintaining his innocence, Estrada, however, has said that he would not apply for pardon.

Following the promulgation of his guilty verdict yesterday, Estrada even accused the Arroyo administration of being "illegitimate" for "grabbing power" in 2001.

As early as Nov. 17, 2004, fresh from securing a six-year mandate, Ms Arroyo issued Memorandum Circular No. 155 which states that it is her policy "to extend executive clemency to deserving elderly inmates out of compassion and based on humanitarian grounds."

Legal observers have said that the memo was issued in anticipation of the guilty verdict in the plunder case.

The power of the President to pardon prisoners is enshrined in the Constitution.

The President may grant executive clemency to prisoners serving their sentences after final judgment, it says. Such power "may be bestowed from the private and gracious act of the President."

Besides commuting the death sentences of convicts to life in prison prior to the abolition of capital punishment in June last year, Ms Arroyo can grant executive clemency to inmates upon their reaching the age of 70.

The circular said there was a considerable number of inmates who are 70 years old and above.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita has continued to play coy about Malacañang's increasingly apparent intention to pardon Estrada in the event of a conviction.

Ermita has repeatedly told reporters that it is premature to talk about any pardon ahead of conviction.

But he himself admitted last week that the grant of pardon, or even a congressional amnesty, would be crucial since Estrada continued to play a considerable political role in the life of the nation.

"The reason that he's popular is everyone knows that as a political leader, he wants the welfare of the majority of our people to be in front of us rather than just for our personal ends," Ermita said.

Two weeks ago, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales himself met with Estrada at the latter's vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, but Ms Arroyo's emissary said it was just an "exchange of views."

Gonzales said Ms Arroyo had not offered Estrada a pardon should the Sandiganbayan verdict be conviction.

But the following week, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno admitted to reporters that the grant of executive clemency was not far-fetched.

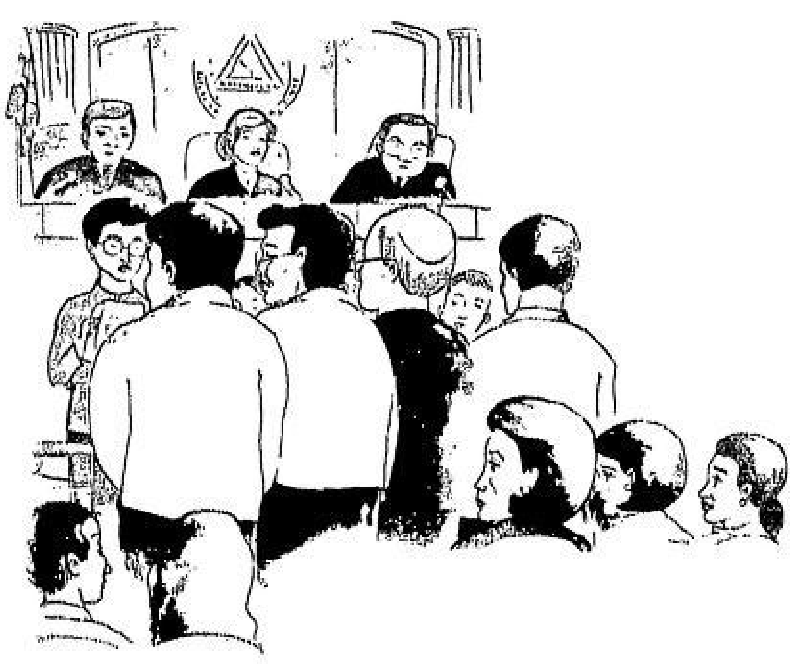
Puno, newly appointed presidential political adviser, said: "I think that it's no secret that the President right now is seeking a greater national reconciliation. So the more we are able to bring everybody together, the better for everybody."

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said that Estrada might have been misinformed when he declared he would not accept any pardon because he would not admit to any crime.

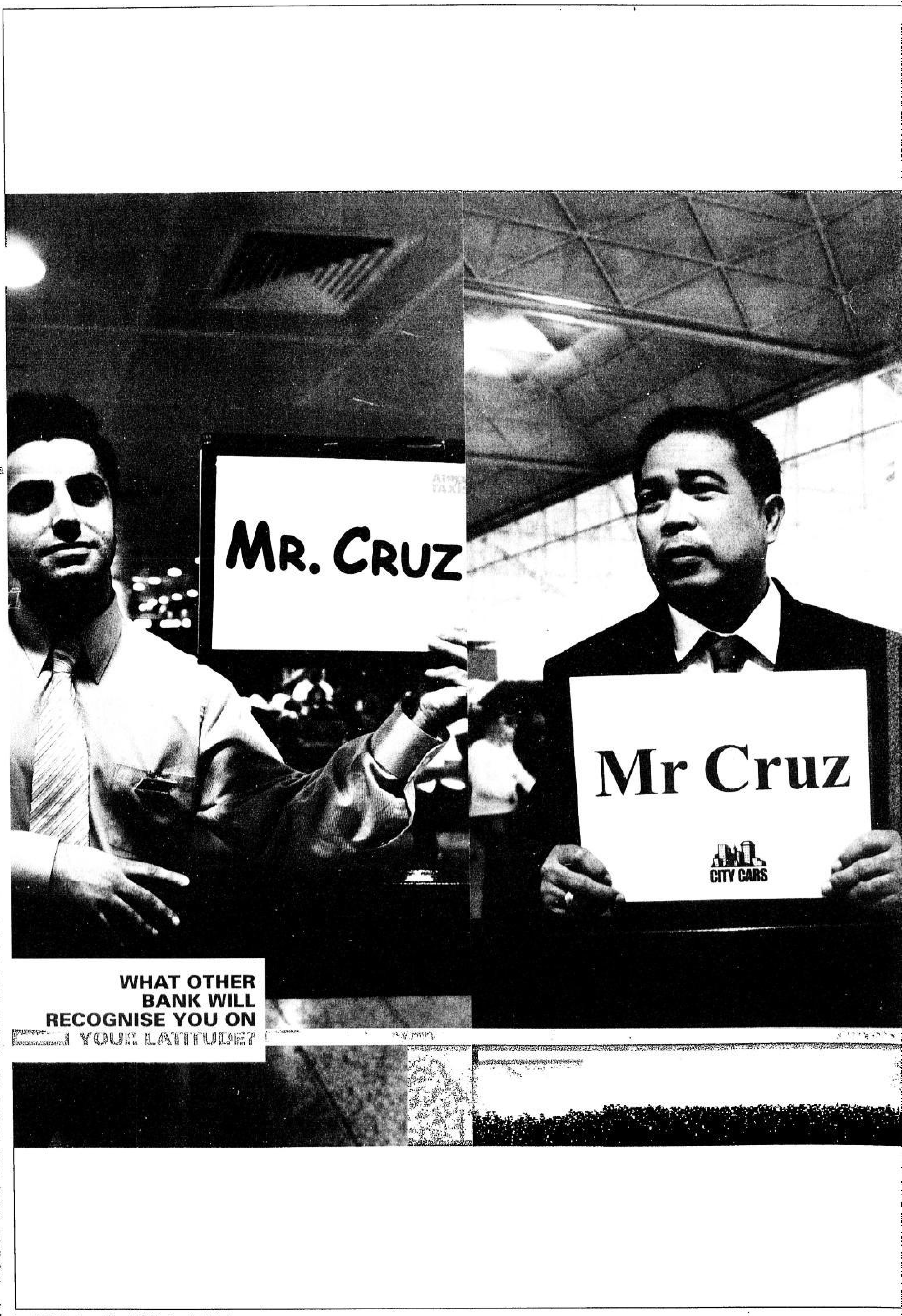
"President Estrada can accept President Arroyo's pardon without getting embarrassed because there is no clear case in the Supreme Court that if you accept clemency, you also admit to committing a crime," Santiago said. "I hope President Estrada will consider that carefully."

Vice President Noli de Castro also favored the grant of pardon to Estrada, saying this was necessary for national reconciliation to take place.

"Pardon is not only good for former President Estrada but for the whole country as well," De Castro stressed. "We should not equate pardon with the admission of guilt." *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Cynthia D. Balana*



INQUIRER ARTIST'S sketch of the accused and their lawyers while the dispositive portion of the 212-page decision was being read by Clerk of Court Teresita Pabulayan. The Supreme Court allowed live TV-radio coverage via hookup with the court video but all other cameras were banned. STEPH BRAVO



WHAT OTHER BANK WILL RECOGNISE YOU ON YOUR LATITUDE?

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC). Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor PHP250,000.

PlunderWatch tells GMA: You're next

By Christian V. Esguerra

AN ANTIGRAFT GROUP THAT HELPED oust Joseph Estrada from the presidency in 2001 and build the plunder case against him is now training its sights on his successor, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Estrada's conviction of a P4.097-billion plunder yesterday "should send a strong message to Gloria—she's next," Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño, one of the organizers of PlunderWatch, told the INQUIRER.

"This is the immediate consequence, the logical conclusion."

Carol Araullo, another convenor and chair of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said the group was so bent on nailing Ms Arroyo for "far worse cases of corruption" that it would also go after her alleged properties abroad.

"She's still enjoying immunity so we should first get her out," Araullo said. "But definitely, we will file cases against her."

PlunderWatch helped organize a series of protest actions that forced Estrada to step down during Edsa II in 2001. Shortly after Estrada's downfall, it resolved to watch over the plunder case filed against him in the Sandiganbayan.

But quite uncharacteristically yesterday, PlunderWatch was nowhere near its jubilation six years ago. Its leaders cited "post-Estrada realities" that purportedly saw his constitutional successor betraying the spirit of Edsa II.

"She is far more guilty than Estrada," Casiño said in Filipino. "So if Estrada was convicted, there's no reason why she shouldn't be as well."

Other militant groups, which also joined Edsa II, were just as convinced.

"Ironically, we ousted the last administration because of corruption," Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel told the INQUIRER. "But the one that replaced it was even more corrupt and betrayed everything that we had fought for in Edsa."

"VICTORY FOR JUSTICE" or so the "V" signs flashed by Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol would indicate. He said that legally the President can pardon but the convict must initiate the proceedings toward that end.

LYN RILLON

Hontiveros said this belief explained why her group was zeroing in on cases like the $329-million National Broadband Network deal with China's ZTE Corp., the $460-million Cyber Education Program, and the 31 agribusiness deals signed between China and the Philippines in January.

"Once she's out of office, we should sue her," the lawmaker said. "But she's afraid of this prospect, that's why she's in the mode of survival and impunity."

Selective justice

The Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya said in a statement that since 2001, "the Arroyo administration has committed and continues to commit crimes against the Filipino people where no court of her peers would dare convict her of."

While respecting the Sandiganbayan's decision on the Estrada case, the Black & White Movement said it "laments the selective application of justice—expedient and with a heavy hand for those perceived to be enemies of the Arroyo regime, while slow and protective toward those allied with her."

"The real test of the present justice system," Partido ng Manggagawa said, "is not the end of Estrada's plunder case but the start of the trial of [Ms] Arroyo for worse crimes."

In a statement, it said "closure may have been achieved with regard to Estrada's case but the issue of [Ms] Arroyo's legitimacy remains unresolved."

The women's alliance Gabriela said it expected justice to be also served "immediately on the "crimes against the people committed" by Ms Arroyo.

Focus now on GMA

Casiño said PlunderWatch had begun shifting its efforts from Estrada to Ms Arroyo as early as 2002. That time, he said the group had begun noticing indications that Estrada's trial would not be insulated from Malacanang's political interest.

"The feeling was that Estrada had already been made accountable and was, in fact, under detention and under trial," he said.

"We preferred to focus our antigraft effort on the incumbent, especially because the crimes of Arroyo were bigger than Estrada's."

Eventually, he said PlunderWatch was "elbowed out" by the prosecution team which, he noted, rejected its position of a swift trial isolated from any "political maneuvers" of the administration.

"We didn't want to play their game," he said.

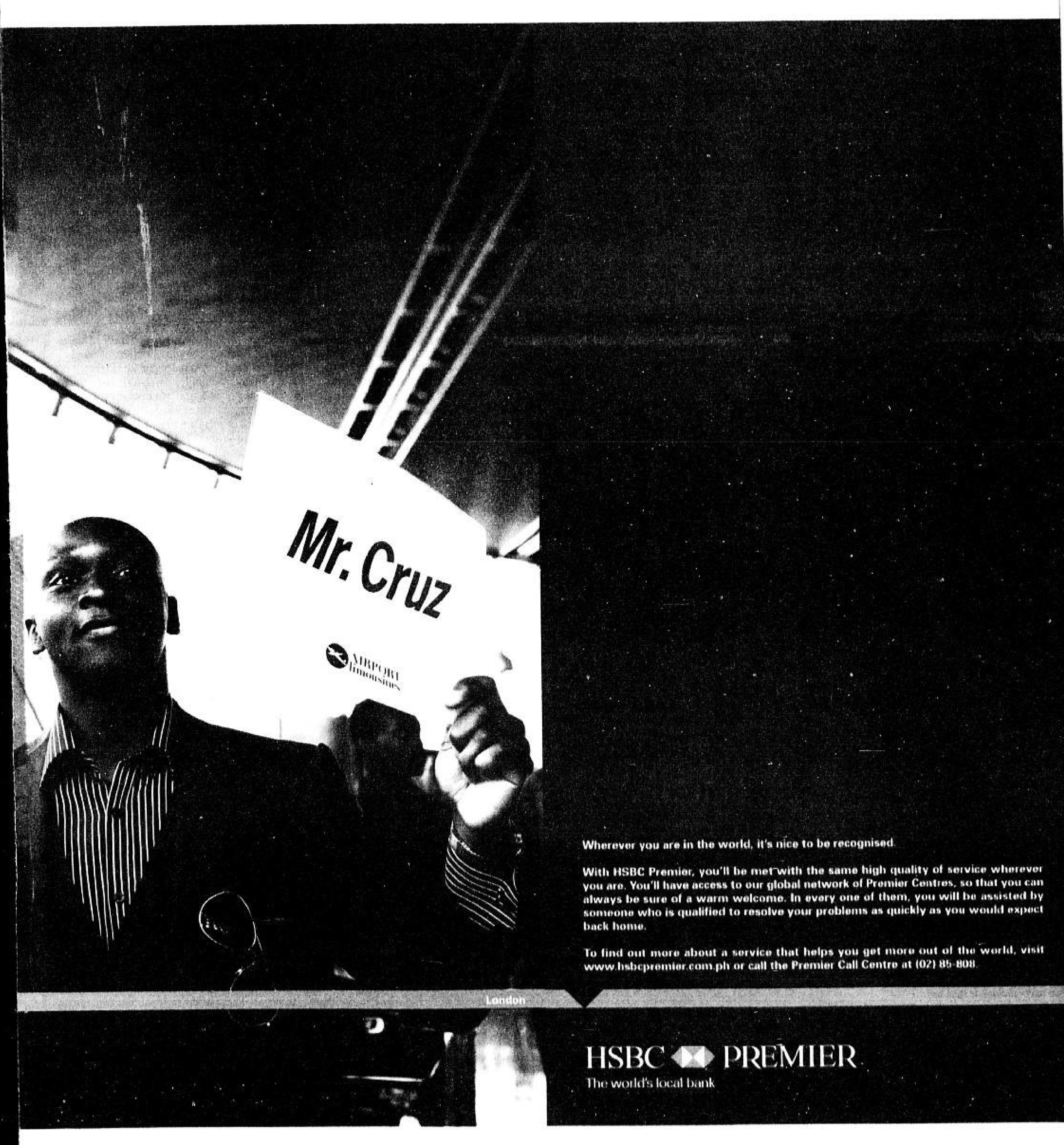
BUNDY CLOCK Made in JAPAN
- Brand New
- 2 Color Printing
- Uses Standard Time Cards
- 1 Year Warranty on Parts and Service

Located in MAKATI CBD

INFINITE SYSTEMS Call for FREE DEMO 892-9073 to 77

Panasonic
PABX System
- Call Transfer
- Music-On-Hold
- Call Privacy
- Intercom

INFINITE SYSTEMS Call for FREE DEMO 892-9073 to 77



Wherever you are in the world, it's nice to be recognised.

With HSBC Premier, you'll be met with the same high quality of service wherever you are. You'll have access to our global network of Premier Centres, so that you can always be sure of a warm welcome. In every one of them, you will be assisted by someone who is qualified to resolve your problems as quickly as you would expect back home.

To find out more about a service that helps you get more out of the world, visit www.hsbcpremier.com.ph or call the Premier Call Centre at (02) 85-808.

HSBC PREMIER
The world's local bank

ISSN 0116-2642

INQUIRER

Vol. 22 No. 277

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/opinion

OPINION

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000

•100% soy ink•

He was Velarde

EDITORIAL

AND SO IT HAS COME TO PASS. THE FIRST EX-president to face a criminal trial has become the first ex-president to be convicted of a crime.

Plunder, of course, is no ordinary crime; it involves the perfidious amassing of illegal and massive wealth by public officials, and is punishable by reclusion perpetua. Did Joseph Estrada ever imagine, when the 8th Congress he served in passed the landmark law creating and defining plunder in 1991, that in 10 years' time he would face a plunder trial himself, and that in another six years he would be found guilty as charged?

The twists and turns of Estrada's plunder trial seemed at times like they came straight out of a movie. It is a movie, however, where the former actor plays villain, not hero.

To be sure, there were—there are—other villains. Almost right from the start, the Arroyo administration politicized the legal process that sought to hold Estrada to account. Its allies in the House repeatedly tried to intervene with politically motivated resolutions. And what were political smooth operators like Michael Defensor and Norberto Gonzales doing when they repeatedly visited Estrada in his Tanay, Rizal rest house? Playing Scrabble?

But Estrada and his lawyers have also tried their damnedest to taint the plunder trial as essentially political. One particular low point was reached early in the case, when Estrada fired his lawyers as a dramatic act of protest against the proceedings. Yesterday, he repeated, yet again, his defense lawyers' inadequately researched claim that no one has yet been acquitted by any special court, anywhere in the world. (That's a myth: In his own plunder case, of course, his son Jinggoy and his lawyer Edward Serapio were found innocent, because the prosecutors failed to prove their involvement beyond a reasonable doubt. At the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, to give an example from a special court created by the United Nations, top Bosnian general Sefer Halilovic was acquitted—an object lesson in the limits of the doctrine of command responsibility.)

It is unfortunate that Estrada's lawyers moved to dispense with the full reading of the Sandiganbayan decisions. A full reading would have been a sudden and bracing immersion in the details of the two cases (the other for perjury, where Estrada was acquitted), and would have served the public's need to know (a need recognized by the Supreme Court). But we can understand the tactical reason for the lawyers' motion: A full reading would have argued the case for the decisions of the three Sandiganbayan justices; it would have marshaled, organized and presented the evidence against Estrada.

For anyone seeking to politicize the trial and its results, that would have been an unnecessary complication. Better to simply rail against the results, instead of discussing the court's reasoning.

But the exhaustive decision, signed by Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo-De Castro and Associate Justices Francisco Villaruz Jr. and Diosdado Peralta, does make sense of the many sensational aspects of the Estrada case. It should be required reading.

Consider the Sandiganbayan's finding regarding Jose Velarde. "The Court finds that ... Estrada is the real and beneficial owner of EPCIB combo account C/A No. 0110-25495-4 and S/A No. 0160-62501-5 in the name of Jose Velarde.

"The eyewitness account of prosecution witness Clarissa Ocampo that she saw ... Estrada signed [*sic*] the name Jose Velarde in the various documents presented to him and explained to him was undisputed by ... Estrada and constitutes direct evidence that ... Estrada signed as Jose Velarde.

"Another direct evidence that ... Estrada is Jose Velarde is the admission of ... Estrada that he signed as Jose Velarde in the documents presented to him by Clarissa Ocampo .... Such admission constitutes an admission that he and Jose Velarde are one and the same person .... Being an admission against interest, it is the best evidence .... no man would declare anything against himself unless such declaration was true."

In the end, the court found that, on two of the four counts of plunder, "Estrada took advantage of his official position, authority, relationship, connection and influence to unjustly enrich himself at the expense and to the damage and prejudice of the Filipino people and the Republic of the Philippines."

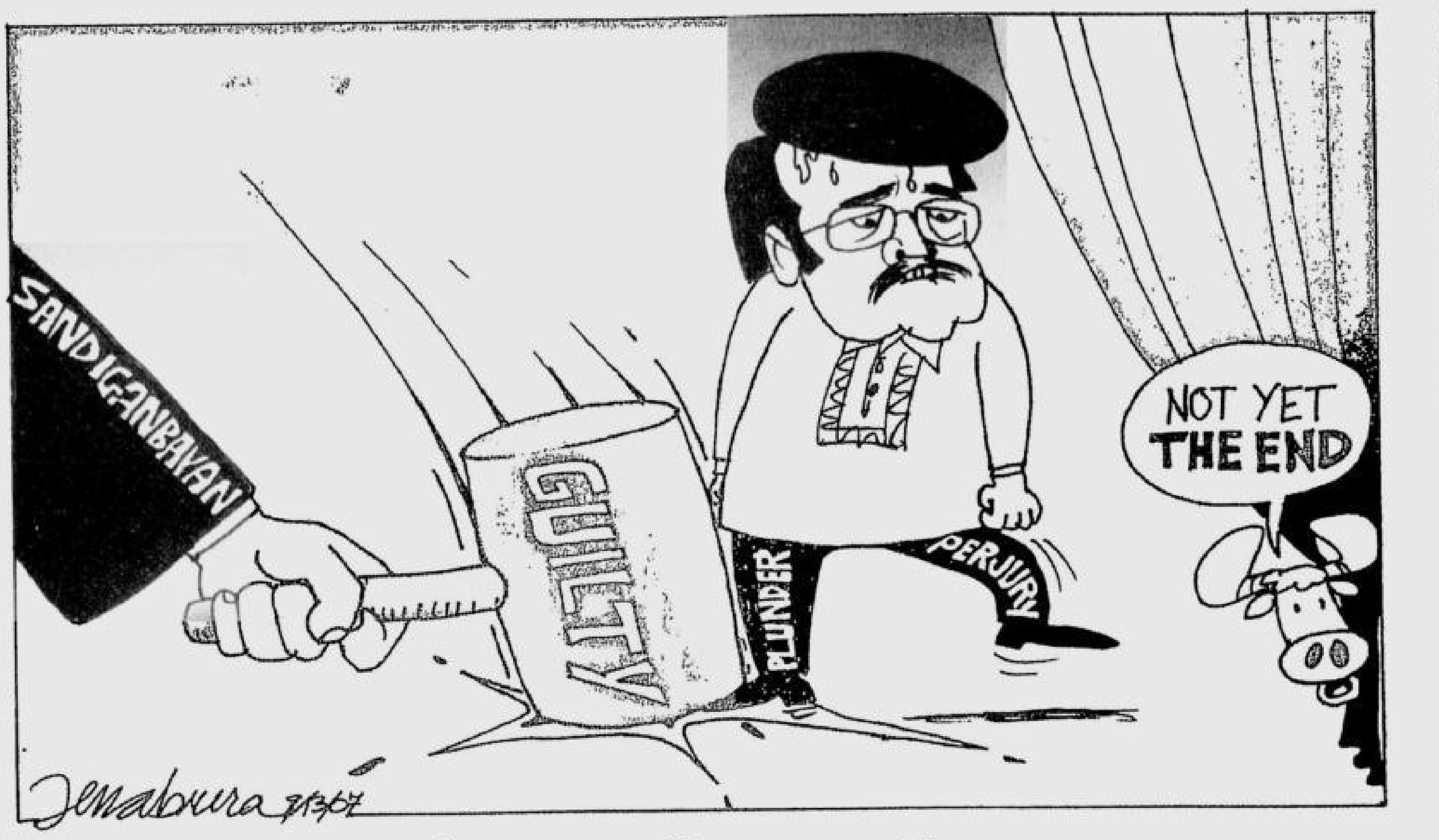
Finally, the big fish.

Publisher **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
Editor in Chief **LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC**
Managing Editor **JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO**
Associate Editor **ABELARDO S. ULANDAY**
Associate Editor for Readership **ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO**
News Editor **ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **NILO B. PAUROM**
Opinion Editor **JORGE V. ARUTA**
National Editor **PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.**
Senior Desk Editor **JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.**
Editorial Consultant **AMANDO DORONILA**
Chief Photographer **ERNIE U. SARMIENTO**
Art & Design Director **LYNETT A. VILLARIBA**

Board Chairman **MARIXI R. PRIETO**
President **ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **RENATO R. REINOSO**
VP for Advertising **FELIPE R. OLARTE**
AVP for Circulation **SANDY SIMON R. YAP**

Readers' Advocate **LORNA KALAW TIROL**
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



The mendicant option

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

WATCHING THE SANDIGANBAYAN CONVICT former President Joseph Estrada reminded us of how constitutionalist scholar Joaquin Bernas, S.J., described the buffeting the justices received: "Estrada and his lawyers…project every defeat of his motions as an act of injustice… The judicial process is being painted as pure black… The fabric of government is weak enough. Another surrender to pressure will only serve to weaken it some more."

Wednesday's decision showed that Justices Teresita Leonardo de Castro, Diosdado Peralta and Francisco Villaruz Jr. didn't crumble. Of course, some will disagree with the rulings. "*A mus pocos agrada la justicia en su propio casa,*" my grandmother would say. Justice pleases few in their own house.

By standing firm, the Sandiganbayan made this country safer for our grandchildren.

* * *

The court ruling came when this column was almost complete. It deals with how the latest frenzy of dolling up miniscule, often stagnant, towns as cities produced 131 of them.

In 1991, there were already 60 cities, many of dubious viability, according to the National Statistical Coordination Board. There are more ahead.

Cityhood aspirants failed to hurdle Republic Act 9009's basic yardstick: earnings of at least P100 million yearly. And despite the League of Cities' opposition, President Macapagal-Arroyo allowed their charters to lapse into law. "Come December, we'll have a glut of 129 cities," this column predicted in February.

That forecast bombed. There were already 131 by end of June. From July onwards, more joined the club: Baybay (Leyte), Catbalogan (Samar), even Lamitan (Basilan). They simply wangled exemptions from Congress during an election year. None performed as "engines of growth," like, say, Balamban, Cebu, where shipyards build ocean-going vessels for countries the world over. And this is only September.

Multiplication of ill-prepared cities have "strained the national government's ability to finance such local government units," the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank noted earlier. "The small size of LGUs prevents them from generating their own resources."

Do we have today 139 cities? Or 141? Who knows? In Cebu, the mayors of Bogo, Carcar and Naga hang out "city" shingles. This province now has nine cities, behind Negros Occidental's 13. But who needs nine cities, let alone 13, in one freaking province?

The more critical question is, can these new cities deliver? "Cities, like dreams, are made of desires and fears," Italo Calvino wrote in "Invisible Cities." And unless exemplary governance, sound policies and broader citizen participation are ensured, "inequalities will deepen between included and excluded...between daydreams and nightmares."

"Three C's undermine democracy and worsen poverty" in cities, notes Worldwatch Institute in its 2007 study, "Our Urban Future." These are corruption, cronyism and clientilism. "When people need to bribe officials to get needed services, those who can least afford to bribe suffer the most."

Uncurbed violence is another constraint. Vigilantes in Cebu City, for example, salvaged 180 victims. None of these murders have been solved. The Commission on Human Rights has given up. "When (criminals) purchase complicity from the police for their illegal activities, they can hold entire low-income neighborhoods hostage."

There is no single formula for creating liveable cities. But there are essential conditions for transformation: transparent governance, as demonstrated by Mayor Jesse Robredo in Naga City; innovative infrastructure to conserve the ecological systems that support life; careful land use; and bias for the poor.

On newly printed city letterheads, officials now badger Malacañang for heftier internal revenue allotments. They're exercising the beggar option. "Begging is a decent form of stealing," the Ilocano proverb says.

Few of the new cities show interest in buttressing their local revenue base, whether by taxing idle land or by cracking down on those who have welshed on accounting for massive cash advances. The 2007 Commission on Audit reports document pervasive splurging in LGUs for honoraria, travel seminars, food, entertainment, etc.

Like Juan Tamad of Filipino folk tales, the new cities prefer waiting for IRA cash to drop on to their lap. Sweat is not for them. But IRA slabs for the new boys on the block will be dunned from IRAs of others, the League of Cities warns. Financially strapped Muslim provinces and fourth- and fifth-class towns will bear the brunt. This is a "beggar-your-neighbor" policy.

Does panhandling stoke delusion? Beggar-mayors sketch grandiose visions of "industrial estates" and "cyberspace corridors" they'll raise. Yet, their city shingles perch atop basically agricultural areas. Farms predominate. Few have sewers, piped water, adequate schools, etc.

Boosting productivity of still agrarian constituencies would lay the foundation for economic growth. You'd think that priority would go for basics: clean water, sanitation, improved schools, protection of natural ecosystems. Above all, there should be provision for taxpayers to be heard in decisions that affect their lives. Some 1,200 cities worldwide ensure that their citizens participate in budget setting.

But no. Each mendicant, atop a new shell city, postures like a Lee Kwan Yew presiding over a post-industrial metropolis rising on a cyberspace highway. Indeed, "what fools these mortals be."

* * *

E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com

Privileges

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I HEARD IT FROM AN INDONESIAN FRIEND long before I saw it as a text joke about GMA. At one time during Suharto's rule, my friend said, the dictator thought to liberalize things and so ordered that henceforth the media would be free to print or air whatever they liked. The editor of a newspaper got it into his head to believe this and ran a headline that screamed, "Suharto is a fool!" The state troopers forthwith arrested him and jailed him. At the end of his (short) trial, the judge gave him 20 years and two months. When he pressed the judge to tell him what the sentence was for, the judge replied: The two months are for subversion, and the 20 years are for revealing state secrets!"

I remembered this after I read the other day that Presidential Legal Adviser Sergio Apostol and Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago were ganging up on Vidal Doble, determined to make his life a living hell. Apostol was threatening to throw the book at Doble for revealing military secrets, while Santiago was threatening to blow up Doble's credibility by delivering what in her mind was the ultimate refutation, a privilege speech entitled, "The Recanting Witness in Criminal Law."

I wouldn't be surprised if Doble is haled to court and given 20 years and two months—two months for keeping the company of Panfilo Lacson, and 20 years for revealing the state secret that this is a government headed by a cheat and helped along by fools.

But truly, this is such a surreal country the phrase "*onli in da Pilipins*" adds whole new dimensions to tragicomedy. Where Apostol and Santiago get off imagining they are in a perfect position to destroy anybody's credibility, only they can say. Indeed, where Santiago gets off imagining she is such a dazzling light in law she can eclipse anybody's truth by blinding the world with the luminance of her mind, only she can say.

If I recall right, Apostol was the fellow who distinguished himself in Erap's impeachment trial by addressing the female guests there as "Madame Wetness," thereby making his enemies quake, not with fear, but with mirth. Try as I might, I cannot recall him doing much else.

And if I recall right, Santiago's greatest moment there was also trying, as she proposes to do now to Doble, to destroy the credibility of a witness. That witness was Jasmin Banal, a young lawyer, who had quit her job at a law firm whose senior partner happened to be a presidential legal adviser at the same time. She joined another law firm, one that ended up helping to prosecute Erap. Santiago sought to demolish Banal's credibility by eliciting from her the "confession" that she was paid better in the job she left. Santiago argued that a lawyer who made that "unusual deviation from the usual career path, since you and I and all UP law graduates virtually pursue the same career path after graduation, (which is that) we try and get the highest salary we can get," cannot possibly be believed.

Raul Roco came to Banal's rescue by showing that there was nothing unusual in a lawyer leaving a well-paying job for a low-paying one out of principle. Indeed, that wasn't just perfectly usual, that was imperative. That was what a lawyer swore to, above all one from UP: not to be blinded by money but to always choose the side of ethics. Rather than being an aberration, Banal was being the best a lawyer could be. Rather than being trash, Banal's word could be taken as gospel truth.

Stung by this rebuke, Santiago turned her ire at the gallery and ordered three people thrown out for "eyeing me provocatively."

I can only hope you are not in the gallery when, after Santiago delivers her privilege speech, another senator characterizes a "recanting witness" as one who damns cheating in elections but defends it later, one who defends Erap but damns him later, and one who vows undyingly loyalty to GMA but will probably die to disavow her later. You might be accused of eyeing her provocatively, adding insult to injury.

At the very least, Lacson has a point about Santiago et al.'s selective perception. There was another witness before who recanted his testimony, and government not only took it hook, line and sinker, it made it the cornerstone of its defense. Hell, government not only took it hook, line and sinker, it engineered the recanting in the first place.

That witness was Udong Mahusay, Lacson's star witness in his case against Mike Arroyo, alias Jose Pidal. Mahusay was "rescued" by Michael Defensor from a captivity that included all the amenities of freedom, including the use of a cell phone. A fact that bolsters Doble's contention his family was spirited away to make him recant—they're perfectly capable of it. Next thing you knew, Mahusay recanted, and no government ally pointed out how contemptible a recanting witness is held by criminal law, all of them showed how valuable a recanting witness is held by a criminal government.

But far more than that, what absolute cheekiness fulminating against a recanting witness, or issuing any sigh or sound remotely related to the concept of witnessing, when an EO 464, a legal presumption struck down by the Supreme Court for the obscenity that it is, can actually be contemplated by a government pretending to defend democracy. Francisco Gudani and Alexander Balutan never recanted their testimony, they were never allowed to say it. Or they were punished severely for attempting it, courtesy of an insane law that says no public official may testify against GMA without GMA's consent, preferably in triplicate. What we need is not a privilege speech about the "Recanting Witness in Criminal Law," what we need is a privilege speech about the "Gagged Witness In the Eyes of God and Country."

Delivering that won't just be a privilege, it will be a pleasure.

On pardon and amnesty

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE CONVICTION BY THE SANDIGANBAYAN OF Former President Joseph Estrada on plunder was generally received with relief, as indicated by the upsurge of the stock market and the strengthening of the peso. There are several reasons for this. One is that the litigation process dragged for nearly six years now, and people felt the need for closure. To be sure, the conviction is not yet final, as his lawyers say they would file a motion for reconsideration with the graft court. And if that should be thrown out, the case could go up to the Supreme Court for final judgment. Nonetheless, yesterday's ruling was seen as a first step to a final resolution of this case, and except for the Erap fanatics, it was welcomed by the people.

Moreover, the decision was calibrated by the graft court to show humane consideration. Estrada was convicted of plunder but acquitted on the perjury charge, as were his son Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and his lawyer Edward Serapio. Moreover, he was allowed to return to his Tanay resthouse instead of being moved to the national penitentiary.

* * *

With the initial conviction of Estrada, the question of pardon to be extended by President Macapagal-Arroyo has come up. But lawyers have pointed out that a presidential pardon may be granted only after conviction by final judgment (in this case, following an appeal to the Supreme Court). Muddling the issue is Estrada's public statement that he would not ask for pardon as this would indicate that he is guilty, which he is not. Many people, however, feel that his rejection of pardon is just a public posture, and that if its is extended, he'd grab it as the chance to go home finally and spend the rest of his days with his family. Pardon is favored by the people who feel that Estrada has suffered enough.

* * *

Lawyer Raul Lambino, who sponsored people's initiative last year, has a different tack. On TV yesterday, he suggested that an amnesty for Estrada be considered, following the President's proclamation last week offering amnesty to communist rebels. Lambino said that while in practice amnesty has been granted normally to political offenders, the Constitution, under Art. VII Sec. 19, does not limit it to such offenses. The only stipulation is that it must be extended with "the concurrence of a majority of all the Members of the Congress." Thus, he argued, amnesty could cover "common crimes" such as plunder, although he added that such an interpretation could be challenged in the Supreme Court. The problem, however, as I see it is that while pardon refers to a specific crime by a specific offender, amnesty has a wider application and is therefore more difficult to define.

* * *

Last Tuesday, I wrote about the son-in-law and mother-in-law tandem of Bobbit Suntay and Dely Fernandez. After the death of Bobbit's wife Jackie, who's Dely's daughter, and Dely's husband Ace Fernandez, both from cancer within the same year, they put up the Carewell Community in Makati City that Jackie had envisioned after her enriching experience in a Boston-based cancer care group when she was undergoing treatment there. Carewell, which is managed by Bobbit full-time, gives physical, spiritual and psychological support to cancer victims and their families. It is located at the S & L Building in Legaspi Village, Makati. It boasts of a homey and friendly atmosphere where people can indulge in therapeutic activities such as art and music, or catch up on the latest developments with regard to the disease in a well-equipped library or via a lecture. It also helps those with limited funds to have access to donors. To raise funds for its activities and programs, Carewell relies largely on volunteers, who are mostly successful professionals seeking to do their share for society. Call Carewell at 893-0041 and 751-0242 or Bobbit's cell, 0916-253-1523.

* * *

Another group with which this column's readers are familiar is Inang Naulila sa Anak (INA). Founded by Gina de Venecia soon after the horrible death in a fire of her and Speaker Joe de Venecia's 16-year-old daughter, KC, in December 2004, INA's outreach program to grieving mothers has grown through the dedication of its 180 members, led by Gina as chair and president. Last Aug. 30, INA held its third general assembly. It is now setting up its first satellite organization in Cebu, chaired by Thelma Chiong, whose two daughters were rape victims 10 years ago.

Gina recalls that among the many thousands who showed up at KC's wake in Forbes Park, it was radio commentator Ali Sotto, whose son Miko died the year before in an accident, who comforted her the most because of the empathy she conveyed. Gina bonded with other grieving mothers such as Menchie Abalos and Irma Santiago and they decided to put up INA, with child psychologist Honey Carandang as their adviser. Later they put up the INA Healing Center in a corner of the DSWD compound in the Batasan, with the seed fund coming from the Speaker. Last Monday, Ting Mañalac, a certified grief counselor, who herself had lost a son, began training INA members as "grief mentors." The idea is for them to eventually go down to the barangay level, through a tie-up with local government units, and help bereaved mothers cope with calamities and disasters.

On our dzRH radio program, Cecile Alvarez and I chatted with INA members Bibi Lopez-Yu and Precy Francisco-Meneses, who are both in the shoe industry. Bibi lost her 19-year-old son Xavier, an Atenean, in an accidental fall in 2005 while Precy lost her daughter Ma. Mae to aneurysm in 2004. Both mothers said INA proved to be "a lifeline" for them, and the center turned from a "place of grief to one of hope." Interestingly, some spouses of INA moms are clamoring to form their own chapter, after seeing how their wives channeled their overwhelming grief into loving care and concern for others. INA center may be reached at 951-5288 or 951-7102 and ask for Wella, the head social worker.

Sing, 'Fiat justitia ruat coelum'

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

INDEED, ONE CAN SAY, "NESSUN DORMA." NO one sleeps as this benighted country awaits the rising of the sun and the day of judgment of former President Joseph Estrada.

In Puccini's last opera "Turandot," no one sleeps as Calaf, the "Unknown Prince," waits for Princess Turandot's life-and-death answer to a riddle. Calaf's fate hangs in the balance.

I am starting to write this piece on the eve of the Sandiganbayan's judgment on Estrada, accused of plunder and several other crimes. I continue writing tomorrow (yesterday, that is) after either his conviction or acquittal. (Now, as I continue writing, he is being judged guilty of plunder, but not of perjury, and is being sentenced to reclusion perpetua or 40 years in prison. It takes less than 30 minutes to read it all to him.)

Out of the window goes the piece I had intended to write. That is, my two cents on the great tenor of our time Luciano Pavarotti whose death last week was mourned by music lovers worldwide. I soaked the world's grief and mine in his music in the past days, deriving comfort from the sacred arias, to the flirtatious and "brindisi" ones, to even the Hollywoodish "Yes, Giorgio"; from his vintage 1965 recording to his recent crossovers from opera to pop.

Well, he got to sing ("Panis Angelicus") at his own funeral, didn't he?

But it is the end of what has become Pavarotti's signature song from "Turandot" that will linger for all time. He soars and explodes in the end of "Nessun Dorma" with "*vincero...vincero!*" followed by the blare of trumpets that heralds victory.

Who is the victor, who the vanquished?

Estrada is no Calaf. The similarities end in their waiting in the night. But this plunder case in the trial of the century is indeed operatic in magnitude and I can visualize and hear in my mind an opera chorus, like the chorus of the prisoners in Verdi's "Nabucco," breaking mightily into song as judgment on Estrada is being rendered. I imagine the song to be "*Fiat justitia ruat coelum.*" Let justice be done though the heavens fall.

So much for trying to mix and mesh on this day of days.

My thoughts go back to May of 2001, after Estrada had been arrested, handcuffed and brought to his prison cell. What happened was totally unexpected. The throng of poor people who adulated Estrada went berserk. It stunned and jolted many, even those who had worked and immersed themselves among the poor for most of their lives.

They wept for the people and for themselves. Church workers, most of whom had accompanied the poorest of the poor for many years, shed tears while reflecting on the violence on Mendiola, where thousands of Estrada supporters went wild, destroyed property, and hurt and were hurt by those who stood in their way.

"Where have we failed?" I remember the church workers who worked among the poorest asking almost in unison at a reflection session. "How have the poor come to this? Who led them there? Why couldn't they understand that their idol, Estrada, committed a grave crime against them, the very poor people who put him in power? Where were we?"

"Like sheep without a shepherd" was how a priest described the throng that went on a rampage. "We looked at the thousands who massed up at the Edsa Shrine and dismissed them simply as a mob—unwashed, uncouth, uncultured—and saw and heard only their ravings and the threat to us 'peace-loving and educated' citizens. When this mob finally moved, we congratulated one another and said our judgment was deadly accurate."

But the priest used the biblical parable of the Good Shepherd to point out that many failed to see the so-called mob "as Jesus would have wanted us to see them: as people who were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Because the angry poor were not the enemy.

A community organizer in poor Christian communities for two decades wept unashamedly and expressed his frustration. "Why, why?" he cried. "Have all our efforts gone to waste? I have poured out my life for the poor, and now this. Should I give up?"

But it was different in a poor district in Malate and Paco in Manila where Good Shepherd nuns have lived for 20 years: No member of a Christian community in the area went to the pro-Estrada rally. When asked why, a woman answered that they knew Estrada had stolen and they did not want to side with evil. Seminars, reflections and prayer had brought them to this kind of conviction, she added. "We knew on Monday that the (Estrada followers') takeover would not happen because God would not allow that," the woman said.

A Franciscan nun sobbed as she recalled how relocated squatters with whom they had lived for seven years turned against them. "We lived side by side with them, lived the way they did, but they still thought Estrada was their savior," she said. "*Kulang na lang palayasin nila kami* (They did all but drive us away) and they blame us for Estrada's downfall."

"We should not give up," a sobbing church worker said, "we have to be shepherds, not only to the poor, but also to one another. We need to be more compassionate."

The work will be hard and will take a long time, someone added. "We cannot leave and give up now. We have to examine ourselves and find new ways."

Others expressed hope mixed with disappointment. "This is a wake-up call," a church worker said. A wake-up call, indeed, for those who were asleep and those who were already awake. That was six years ago.

It's just been an hour since the judgment was read. Who knows what the aftermath would be this time.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Estrada's ghost army

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

THE HEAVENS WEPT FOR JOSEPH EJERCITO Estrada. Or maybe it was just the result of cloud-seeding operations by the Philippine Air Force. His partisans promised 5,000 protesters at the Sandiganbayan; apparently 500 turned up. The Palace and businessmen twitched and trembled, the mountains labored, and brought forth a mouse. The former president thundered it was a political decision. The whole thing had become a political drama. However, as it turned out, the handing down of the Sandiganbayan's decision was the non-event of the (admittedly very young) century.

Adel Tamano said a vigorous debate among Estrada's legal team took place on the eve of the handing down of the verdict. Should the defendants ask for the entire decision to be read out, or should they settle for the court's reading of its actual decisions? In the end, they decided to ask the court to dispense with reading the whole decision, and go directly to the dispositive portion instead. It seems the main reason was to spare the defendants the burden of enduring a process that could have taken hours.

I can't help but suspect there was a more cunning reason, but I could be over-analyzing things. Asking the court to go straight to its verdict tied in neatly with what Estrada said before and after the fact—it was a kangaroo court, he said—and reducing the procedure helped foster the impression that things were dispensed with in seemingly undue haste. Allowing the court clerk to go on and on, enumerating the basis for the decision, might have given the impression to the faithful that the government had a formidable case. This, for the defendant's purposes, would never do, of course.

I also can't help but think, on a pragmatic, political level, that if Estrada wasn't just a prisoner, but someone holding political office, things might have been different.

On Sept. 25, 2006 I wrote in this space that the Estrada trial was taking so long, that the former president should seize the bull by the horns, run for the Senate, and turn his candidacy into a referendum on himself. My understanding is, he decided to accept Alan Paguia's reasoning that to do so would be to abandon the theory that the constitutional clock stopped in 2001, and that he still remained president. And so, Estrada didn't run for the Senate. Instead, he played godfather to the opposition, gloried in his successful endorsement of some candidates, and smiled as Luis "Chavit" Singson, his political nemesis, went down in humiliating defeat.

Imagine, though, if Singson's inevitable defeat had been accompanied by Estrada's reelection to the Senate. He would have been armed with a mandate his successor has been hard-pressed to claim for herself.

Still, despite the administration's efforts to turn the recent elections into a referendum on Estrada, it remained a referendum on the administration. As such, not just the politicians but most everyone else paying attention to the campaign clearly saw that President Macapagal-Arroyo's hands were tied, because her unpopularity made her a liability to her national candidates. On the other hand, whether understated or overstated, Estrada proved he still had clout. His endorsement was valuable, he remained eminently more likeable to the electorate than his successor, and most of all, he showed that he fully intended to remain a political force up to 2010, while his successor has to keep fending off issues that made his crimes look like small potatoes.

Even if you assume, as I do, that most people "moved on" long ago, either as the surveys have it (guilty or not, a huge majority of urbanites, at least, have forgiven Estrada) or simply because they don't care, the fact remains that Estrada has a wider range of political options than his successor. The President, for one, will find little comfort in a conviction she clearly hoped wouldn't take place, if only because it stiffens the resolve of Estrada's supporters to subject her to the same thing. And with an appeal to the Supreme Court (which takes time) in the cards, the government still cannot seize the assets ordered taken away by the court. Estrada is still in the same exact place he's been for six years; he can let the appeal play out while being courted by presidential candidates.

On the other hand, the best Ms Arroyo can offer is not to stand in the way of her potential successors, which only underlines two things. First, that she fully intends to stand in their way but is losing the ability to do so, as her administration's Achilles heel, the business community, has started getting antsy over the ZTE deal, a Marcosian arrangement which gives businessmen a sense of déjà vu. Second, that being a hindrance is different from being a boost, which is what many candidates seem to think an Estrada endorsement would be.

Hence the contrast couldn't be greater between the supporters of Estrada, both the loyal and true and the more recent allies salivating over photo opportunities and possible endorsements in 2010, and the businessmen huddled in the Makati Shangri-La, listening to the governor of the Bangko Sentral droning on, but gossiping among themselves about whether ZTE is a sign that the President's people are muscling in on their turf.

And there lies the significance of the shortened proceedings at the Sandiganbayan: Estrada is down, but not out. His successor is holed up in the Palace, engaged in a sort of collective mass hysteria obviously not felt by Estrada himself, and not even by most of the public. Estrada called for calm, an easy thing to do, since it seems he wasn't about to risk engaging in a numbers game with an administration that has crowd control down to a science. He's a naughty man, after all, and it's cheaper, and more effective, to go, "Boo!" And watch the barriers set up on Mendiola bridge.

Home again

YOUNG BLOOD

JR Eusebio

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

AFTER A FIVE-YEAR, DREAM-LIKE EXISTENCE IN THE Land of the Rising Sun, where poverty is a myth and safety is not a legend, I am back where I started. I am back in my beloved Philippines.

Not very many things have changed. True, my cousins who were tiny babies when I left now have girlfriends and boyfriends. True, I have more wrinkles and I am a little less ignorant about the world now. True, I have experienced a love that was wonderful and painful and excruciatingly beautiful, just like in the movies. The books I left have aged. The streets seem smaller and the buildings not so tall. Some things have changed, mostly superficially, but many things have remained the same.

I didn't want to see my friends during my first month back in the Philippines. I thought I still had to recuperate from the trauma of being betrayed by the country to which I had given what little wisdom and energy I had. I didn't want to be bombarded with questions like: What happened? What are you going to do now? Do you think you will be able to survive here? I didn't want to disappoint them. I didn't want to ruin whatever dream they had about all of us being able to make it in the world. I didn't want them to think of me as a forerunner. I didn't want them to see that I was back—with nothing.

But I had to show myself eventually, not because I owed it to them (which I did), but because I needed them. I needed my friends.

After several text messages, my friends and I agreed to meet at a mall. I was scared, to tell the truth. But when I saw them, I felt nothing but security. After all, these were the people I grew up with, and they were there for me again. We had dinner together and talked about the things we had missed in each other's lives.

Back when we were in high school, we would imagine what we would all be like 10 years later. The 10 years later is here and now, and it is nothing like we ever imagined it to be. Maybe that's the real power of imagination: it can shrink you to the size of a pea.

But so what? Here and now my friends and I are still together. So what if we all failed miserably in the last 10 years? We can fail some more, together.

Now that they know I'm back, they come to my place every once in a while to bring dinner, to hang out with me at the rooftop of our building, looking at Metro Manila's lights and listening to its sounds. We share mornings on the same rooftop, sipping coffee, waiting for the rain to fall. I would look at them and see that despite the newly relaxed hair, the slimmer figure, the makeup, they're still the same good people I know. Good Filipino people.

As much as I like spending time with my friends and living in Manila, sometimes it becomes too expensive for my very meager budget. Then I seek refuge at my grandmother's place in Bulacan. I get deluxe service over there. I don't just get free food, I am actually asked what I want to eat so I get food that I want to eat for free. There are no shopping malls, so I can't spend even if I had the urge to or if boredom pushes me to do so.

When I can't handle the silence anymore, I talk to my grandmother. She's the same grandmother who would sugarcoat sermons with stories from her childhood. Sometimes I want to record our conversations. I know that no matter how hard I try I wouldn't be able to talk to my grandchildren the same way she talks to me now, and I don't want to deny them the pleasure of listening to her.

I was away for five years. When I came back, I wasn't shocked by how everything has changed, but by how everything remains almost the same. Our neighbors in Bulacan still go to my grandmother when they need financial help. When the river overflows, the walkway leading to our house still gets flooded. Taxi drivers still cheat. Tricycle drivers still whistle when some sexy girl walks by. Street kids still follow you all around with their palms up waiting for you to drop some change. (Of all people, they are the ones who know that change rarely comes.)

Change obviously has not come to this country. My nostrils should be flaring with anger that the government has not done anything to make the Philippines better, that the citizens are still struggling to be able to eat three full meals in a day. But how could I get mad when I myself, after having been exposed to different cultures, meeting different people and experiencing life outside our islands, haven't changed much? My bank book has not grown fat. I have not become famous. I still haven't written the book I've been itching to write. I still am the same old me, more often lost than found.

I spent almost an hour sitting on a luggage cart, facing the conveyor for flight 431 from Narita, waiting for my luggage. It took all my energy to hold back my tears. I was so scared.

Now I realize I was scared for no reason at all. I was merely returning to face the familiar: a country whose people don't lose hope, who line up at agencies patiently and endure the indifference of the agents just to be able to work abroad, who know how to have fun with P20, who love their families, who pray, who are strong and who never give up. Having been through so many catastrophes, Filipinos know the value of life. Constantly having to struggle financially, Filipinos know the value of money. After having been saved a thousand, if not a million, times, Filipinos know the value of faith.

Coming back reminded me of things I had forgotten about this nation and its people. No, I am not angry because everything's the same. I'm just glad that this is the home I will always have to come back to.

JR Eusebio, 26, graduated from the University of the Philippines with a bachelor's degree in journalism and is currently bumming around.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Slap on the wrist

"For an extraordinary swindler whose fraudulent acts during the 2004 and 2007 elections were committed with impunity, the sentence is grossly insufficient and insulting."

—Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros on the Commission on Elections' decision to penalize controversial Maguindanao election supervisor Lintang Bedol with a six-month prison term and a P1,000 fine for indirect contempt

P1B daily war budget an insult

THE P1 BILLION THE GOVERNMENT is spending every day in the war against the Abu Sayyaf is a big insult to the ever-growing number of hungry people in the countryside and in urban poor communities.

And you don't have to be a mathematician or a statistician to interpret the "score," given by the Armed Forces of the Philippines itself, to see that government forces are not winning this war despite their enormous advantage in number, training, firepower, logistics, etc.

I think it's high time for this government to think and rethink its approach in addressing this perennial problem. If the government can afford to launch a war that costs a billion pesos a day—not to mention the harm it causes to the environment, peoples' emotions and psyche, and other direct and indirect damage worth billions of pesos—a war that, history would tell, makes us all losers, then, why can't it launch the same amount to wage war against poverty, unemployment, landlessness, graft and corruption and other things that make our lives miserable like hell? I believe that such a war is the surest way to win the hearts and minds of the people.

There is so much speculation about the hidden agenda behind the war against the Abu Sayyaf. I challenge the Arroyo administration to disprove them all by launching immediately an "all-out peace." I challenge President Macapagal-Arroyo to spend P1 billion a day not in a destructive war but in life-saving and life-giving endeavors. All she needs is to align the longings of her heart with God's way of attaining peace.

Lastly, if the government can spend huge amounts of intelligence funds in waging a war wherein transparency has no place, why not draw from the same intelligence funds in promoting an all-out peace wherein every single peso can be accounted for?

—GERALD L. GUTIERREZ, O. Carm.,
gfgutz@gmail.com

Beyond boom-and-bust: It's an economic boomerang

SHALLOW COMMENTS COME from shallow minds. ("OFWs are proof of economic boom—De Castro," INQUIRER, 9/2/07) Take the data or statistics off because shallow minds cannot make use of them. When comments come from a high official of the national government, we expect them to be highly educational, informative and evidently true.

Perhaps, the economic boom which Vice President Noli de Castro was referring to was the "economic boomerang" from the monumental corrupt practices of those in power, which has impoverished the citizenry. Why are so many Filipinos tagged here as lacking in qualifications and skills (meaning unemployable) able to find employment in other countries?

It is not about the lack of skills or qualifications, but the lack of job opportunities. Is the lack of job opportunities a manifestation of an economic boom? If the much-vaunted economic boom is true, why are there so many fathers and mothers leaving their children behind? Why are there so many businessmen and would-be entrepreneurs investing their money in other countries? Why are there so many Filipinos wanting to leave the country and wishing to live in other countries?

The overseas Filipino workers are proof of a very poor economy.

—LITO FERRER,
3-B F. Calderon St.,
Project 4, Quezon City

Disturbing photo

THE PHOTO ON PAGE A10 OF the INQUIRER's Aug. 31 issue, showing the heads of the three major services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, as well as the head of the Philippine National Police, seeing off President Macapagal-Arroyo as she headed for Malaysia, is disturbing at two levels.

It suggests that these four men are simply lackeys of the President instead of persons in responsible positions. Does protocol demand their presence on such a routine occasion?

Worse, it suggests that the PNP is still part of the military establishment, despite the fact that its own website describes it as "civilian in character," as envisioned by the Constitution. This character is not very evident when you come across police dressed as soldiers or using tanks, as they did some months ago in Iloilo City.

The Catholic Church too might take note of the fact that the PNP is a civilian body. Why are its Catholic members and their families still under the pastoral jurisdiction of the "Military Ordinariate"?

—FR. SEÁN COYLE,
San Columbano,
PO Box 588, 6100 Bacolod City

Cebu's special gift to civilization

WE FILIPINOS AND CEBUANOS have every good reason to be proud.

A very interesting and novel approach to the prison system was recently featured by the print and broadcast media. It deserves recognition.

The prison system has been generally used to deprive prisoners of freedom and to confine them to quarters that are congested and filthy, and that are fit for neither man nor beast. Not much has changed since man invented the prison system. Thus, the greatest enemies of a person in jail are boredom and hopelessness. This has led to the formation of murderous gangs inside jails, resulting in other acts of perversion.

The Cebu Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Center's creative, wholesome and very Filipino way of engaging prisoners in mass dancing exercises is a spark of genius. Maybe, humanity is beginning to change ... for the better. If, indeed, the way of treating prisoners is an indicator of a society's level of civilization, then the prisoners' song-and-dance exercises show the Filipinos' (and Cebuanos') more evolved sense of humanity.

Not only do the songs and dances physically exercise the prisoners; they also give the detainees something to look forward to, a chance for wholesome bonding and social cooperation and no-contact interaction, a restored sense of dignity and belonging to a society that cares. More important of all, the exercises give them hope.

As natives of Cebu now living in other parts of the Philippines and the world, we stand proud of what our fellow Cebuanos have done at the Cebu Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Center. May this way of treating prisoners be an example and serve as Cebu's special gift to the rest of our beloved Philippines and to the world, civilization and mankind.

We hope that the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Bureau of Jail Management, Philippine National Police, Commission on Human Rights, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Cultural Center of the Philippines, UN Commission on Human Rights, Asean Secretariat, Amnesty International and other appropriate government and non-government organizations take notice of this rare gift and example from Cebu and use it as a model.

—GLYNDA BATHAN, AGUSTIN
DIZON, BEBET GOZUN,
PORTIA HORMACHUELOS, JOY
MARTINEZ ONOZAWA,
ANTONIO OPOSA JR., ROY
PIMENTEL,
GLORIA ESTENZO-RAMOS AND
OTHER CEBUANOS

Consumers not represented in WESM board

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE NEWS ITEM, "PSALM demands collection of P9B from buyers" (INQUIRER, 8/17/07) and to the three-page ad celebrating the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market's first anniversary.

I remember President Macapagal-Arroyo's announcement assuring electricity consumers that WESM's commercial operations will introduce competition and, thus, bring down electricity rates. True enough, in the first month of WESM's operations, the electricity rate traded at P2.78 per kWh.

But when I looked at my Meralco August 2006 bill, the generation charge was P4.42/kWh. (Meralco says this is a pass-on charge only.) Why?

In the succeeding months, WESM's electricity rates belied President Arroyo's proud announcement and her assurance that the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) would bring down the cost of power. Six years after the passage of Epira, the Philippines has the highest electricity rates in Asia, toppling Japan from the top spot. Why?

WESM's three-page ad might have the answers. It shows that representatives from the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), Meralco, National Power Corp., National Transmission Corp. and other power utilities, sit in the board of directors of the Philippine Electricity Spot Market (PEMC), which runs WESM's operations. Ironically, these same companies are also players in WESM. The ad also shows that most of the members of the Rules Change Committee come from the power utilities themselves.

This complicated setup of market operations makes us, consumers totally captive and dependent on the decision of power distributors, leaving us with no choice but to bear the high cost of electricity.

This leads me to ask, did the representatives from the Semiconductors Association of the Philippines and the Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers, who are members of the PEMC board, stand up to protect consumers from the findings of the Market Surveillance Committee, which accused PSALM of anti-market competitive behavior? How could the associations of "semiconductors" and electrical engineers be the voice of the consumers in the PEMC board when they obviously have their own interests in the electricity industry? Yet, they are the only members of the PEMC board who are supposed to represent consumer interests. Sadly, we never see them attend Energy Regulatory Commission hearings on the rate-increase petitions opposed by ordinary consumers.

The current composition of the PEMC board and WESM operations shows the utter lack of consumer protection from high electricity rates. Can consumers expect otherwise? Perhaps, with Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes as the new chair of the PEMC, we can now expect the appointment of new PEMC directors with track records in consumer vigilance in the power industry.

—DR. BONIFACIO DAZO,
president,
Federation of Las Piñas Village Associations,
Myrna Panlilio Street, BF Resort Village,
Talon II, Las Piñas City

Bishop wrong; Marines' lives were not wasted

IN THE NEWS ITEM "BISHOP RUES WASTE of lives in Basilan" (INQUIRER, 8/20/07), it was reported that the bishop of Basilan saw the "Marines' lives [as] being wasted." The INQUIRER subsequently came up with an editorial titled "Wasted lives." (INQUIRER, 8/14/07)

Let me first extend our sincerest condolences to the families of the soldiers and officers, including the helicopter pilot, who made the ultimate sacrifice, as men of arms, in defense of the country's people, territory and national interests.

When a Filipino citizen takes his oath as a soldier of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, he voluntarily and willingly places his life on the line in the noble and honorable profession of protecting the lives of the citizens, ensuring the integrity of the country and defending the interests of the nation. With this mandate, is a soldier's life ever wasted?

The heroic Marines could be compared to a group of very young men from the towns of the province of Bulacan who joined the revolution against Spain. The young men, teenagers or in their early 20s, became the soldiers of the Brigada Del Pilar. Their leader was a young Filipino, not yet 24 years old, who was the youngest general in the revolutionary Army—Gen. Gregorio del Pilar.

Brigada Del Pilar fought in several battles in Luzon, ending up in the Battle of Tirad Pass in Ilocos. Sixty of its soldiers fought to block the advancing American soldiers pursuing the president of the first Philippine Republic, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo. Only eight soldiers survived the onslaught. The young general, who led by example, died with his men in the performance of his sworn duties as a soldier and a gentleman of the Philippine army.

Were the lives of General Del Pilar and the heroic soldiers of the Brigada Del Pilar in the battle of 1899 against the colonialists wasted? Were the lives of the officers and men of the Marine Corps in the war on terrorists in 2007 wasted? The succeeding generations of Filipinos who benefited from the sacrifices of the Filipino soldiers will definitely dispute this "wasteful" view of the bishop of Basilan.

Was the life of a parish priest of Basilan who was kidnapped and executed by the terrorists wasted? As rational beings, we do understand and comprehend that death is part of the process of natural life and, as Christians, we were educated and trained by the bishop and his brethren to believe in eternal life. The soldiers, like Basilan's parish priest, attained an honorable death because they were all called to the eternal residence of the Lord when they performed their sworn duties to God, their country and their people.

God bless the soldiers of the Filipino people.

—DING WENCESLAO JR.,
chair, Advocacy Committee,
Philippine Jaycee Senate,
2/F Jaycees Bldg.,
14 Don Alejandrino Roces Ave., QC

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

The country's lowest
year-round fares just got lower!

It's the lowest Go Fares ever! Book your trip as early as you can and get the lowest Cebu Pacific airfare. It really pays to plan ahead.

ALL DOMESTIC SEAT SALE

P1
Sale Period: September 9 to 13, 2007
Travel Period: November 1 to December 20, 2007
More than 100,000 seats available!

Promo is non-refundable.
* Manila-Legaspi (vv) travel period: September 21 to December 20, 2007

LOWEST YEAR-ROUND GO FARES

P1,499
Manila - Kuala Lumpur

P1,999
Manila - Guangzhou, Macau, Taipei or Xiamen NEW!
Cebu - Hong Kong
Manila - Hong Kong

P2,499
Davao - Hong Kong (via Cebu)
Manila - Bangkok or Singapore
Cebu - Singapore

P2,999
Manila - Shanghai NEW!
Manila - Jakarta (non-stop)
Davao - Singapore (via Cebu)

Domestic fuel and insurance surcharges range from PHP 700 to PHP 1,150
International fuel and insurance surcharges range from USD 20 to USD 44

MOST DOMESTIC DESTINATIONS • MOST DOMESTIC FLIGHTS
MOST DOMESTIC ROUTES • NEWEST PLANES

Call (02)70-20-888
or visit the Travel Agent nearest you.
One way fares/vice versa • Limited seats • Fares may not be available on all days and flights • Fares are exclusive of applicable fees, taxes, and surcharges

CEBU PACIFIC
It's time everyone flies.

Something exclusive is coming your way in Inquirer Sunday Lifestyle.
Don't miss the September 16 issue of the Inquirer.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg.
Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
Legazpi City
Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions

Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Panel formed to probe rampant smuggling of cars in Cebu port

By Jolene R. Bulambot
Inquirer Visayas

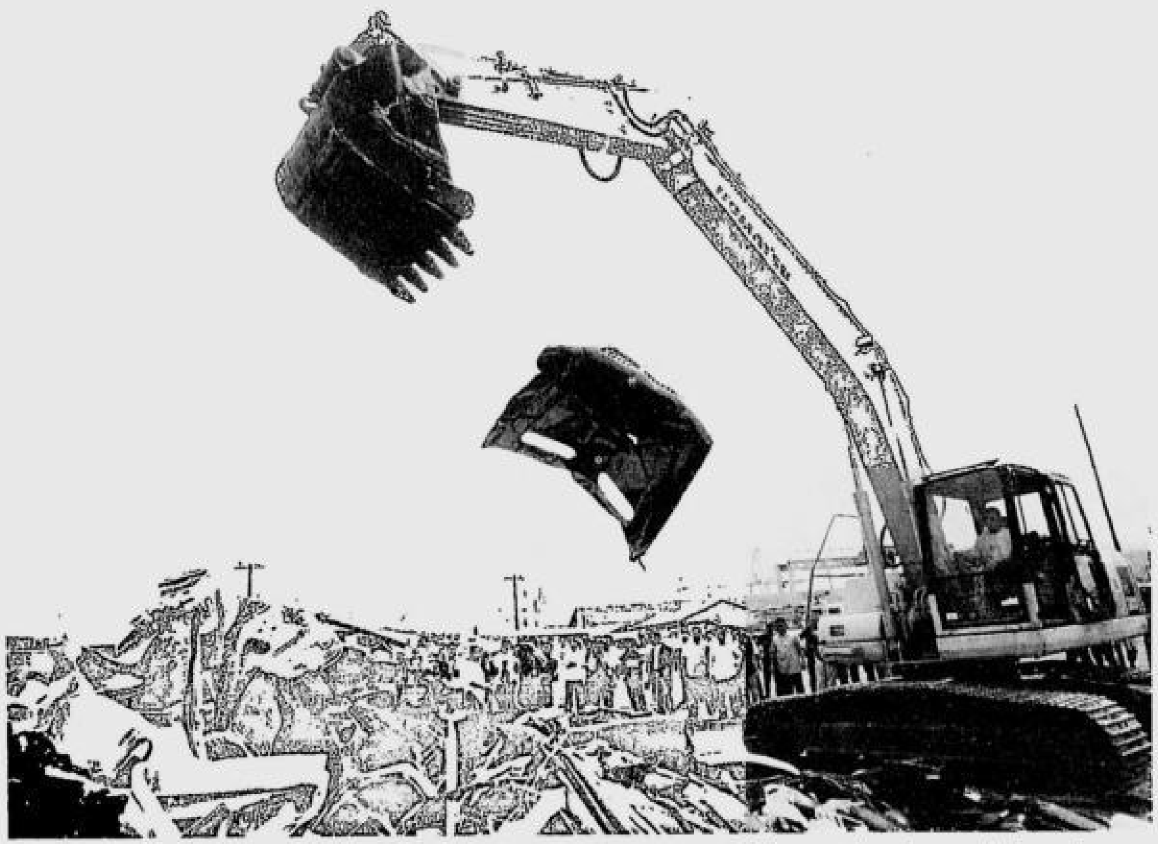
CEBU CITY—THE OFfice of the Visayas Ombudsman has created a panel to investigate reports that Cebu has become the prime destination of smuggled cars.

Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas Pelagio Apostol last Thursday ordered the investigation based on the complaint raised by the Cebu Auto Dealers Association (Cada).

Cada said the smuggling of imported vehicles thrived in Cebu and has done harm to the local automotive industry for the past several years.

Cada also wrote to Finance Secretary Margarito Teves asking him to investigate its suspicion that smuggled cars believed to have entered the country through its various international ports of entry were sold and registered in Cebu.

The car dealers cited the discrepancy of records between the Chamber of the Automotive Manufacturers in the Philippines Inc. (Campi) on vehicles that were sold in 2006 and the number of vehicle registrations issued by the Land Transportation Office over the same year.



THE GOVERNMENT tried to make a spectacle out of the ceremonial destruction of smuggled cars in Subic.

LYN RILLON

Campi records showed that last year, there were 1,686 cars and 3,274 utility and sports vehicles sold by legitimate car dealers in Central Visayas.

But Land Transportation Office-Central Visayas records in 2006 showed it had issued registrations to 3,584 private cars and 21,637 utility and sports vehicles.

Visayas Ombudsman Director Virginia Palanca Santiago, head of the fact-finding investigation division, said the office was acting on the newspaper reports of Cada's allegations.

Santiago said that three assistant graft investigators would conduct the confidential inquiry.

She admitted that the inquiry would be challenging because they would start from scratch in the absence of a formal complaint identifying the people behind the alleged smuggling activities.

"We would be conducting a paper trail but we are happy that the public is responding," Santiago said.

She said the documents submitted by concerned individuals provided information that would help their inquiry into the alleged rampant car smuggling.

Apostol said they would ask the Bureau of Customs and the LTO to shed light on the allegations.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales welcomed the Ombudsman's probe saying it would be best if an independent agency conducted an inquiry rather than his office so that no accusation of whitewash would be raised after the investigation.

Cebu Customs district collector Ricardo Belmonte, however, said it would be impossible for 25,000 cars to slip through the Cebu International Port since the CIP is equipped with sophisticated X-ray scanner machines capable of detecting contraband inside the container vans.

Belmonte said he received reports that some "auctioned vehicles" from free ports in the country were shipped to Cebu as domestic cargo. The BOC has no jurisdiction over domestic cargo, he said.

Belmonte said he had directed the customs police and the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service to look into Cada's allegations.

DOJ accused of meddling in Batangas co-op scam

CALAMBA CITY—AN OFFICIAL of the country's biggest electric cooperative on Tuesday accused the Department of Justice (DOJ) of meddling with the criminal cases they filed against eight erring co-op officials who were removed from office for approving an allegedly anomalous P75-million computerization project.

Marilyn Caguimbal, general manager of Batangas II Electric Cooperative II (Batelec II), said their member-consumers were alarmed by the sudden decision of the DOJ to take over the cases they filed at the National Electrification Administration (NEA).

The charges for gross mismanagement and corruption against the eight members of the board of directors stemmed from the supposed irregularities in the awarding of the multimillion-peso computerization project to a nine-day old company, I-solv Technologies Inc. (I-solv), with a paid up capital of only P62,500.

Last act

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, Caguimbal said Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, who had gone on leave because of his failing health, issued a memorandum instructing the city prosecutors of Lipa and Tanauan in Batangas to hand over the cases to the DOJ's state prosecutors "for no apparent reason."

Caguimbal said aside from the memorandum, Gonzalez also issued Department Order 713 designating state prosecutors Florencio de la Cruz Jr. and Nolibien Quiambao as acting city prosecutors of Lipa.

The justice secretary, she said, ordered the two to conduct preliminary investigation on the syndicated estafa case filed by NEA against the eight board members.

Gonzalez also signed Department Order 715 which named state prosecutors Phillip de la Cruz and Bernardo Parico as acting city prosecutors of Tanauan City.

Influence

Caguimbal said the order instructed the newly designated prosecutors to immediately review the falsification of public documents case that member-consumers filed against the ousted directors of the electric co-op.

"All we know is that one of the respondents in the case is said to be very influential with the justice department and even the courts, being a long-time media man covering the justice and court beats in Manila," Caguimbal said.

She was apparently referring to Reynaldo Panaligan, a reporter of Manila Bulletin covering the justice beat, who is among those named respondents in the said criminal cases.

Panaligan was the president of Batelec II's board of directors when the contested deal was inked on April 15, 2004.

He and his seven co-accused were subsequently removed from office on Oct. 5, 2005 after the NEA found them guilty of the charges filed against them.

Aside from the questionable computerization project, the accused were also found guilty of rigging the bidding for the purchase of 10 boom trucks worth P6.1 million. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

DISTRACTION

BING GONZALES/INQUIRER MINDANAO

A man stops by an appliance store on San Pedro Street in Davao City to watch proceedings of the Sandiganbayan during the promulgation of its guilty verdict on ousted President Joseph Estrada. Many in the city were going about their daily work as the verdict was handed down.

Board backs 3 bills on new tax breathers

By Felipe V. Celino
Inquirer Visayas

ROXAS CITY—THE CAPIZ provincial board approved a resolution supporting three Senate bills granting incentives to fixed income earners.

A bill, authored by Sen. Mar Roxas, sought the exemption of minimum wage earners from paying income tax while another, filed by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, seeks additional exemptions for individual taxpayers. Sen. Jinggoy Estrada authored another bill that would grant unmarried women similar tax exemptions as married women.

Provincial Board Member Esteban Evan Contreras, who authored the resolution, said the Roxas bill would ease the financial burden of the country's 7 million workers earning minimum wage or less.

Enrile's bill seeks to increase exemptions for single or separated individual, from P20,000 to P32,000; for heads of families, P25,000 to P54,000; and for married individual, from P32,000 to P64,000.

Estrada's bill proposed to increase exemptions for unmarried women with illegitimate or legally adopted children from P20,000 to P32,000.

These three bills could help cushion the impact of the high cost of living and the deteriorating purchasing power of the peso, Contreras said.

2 suspects in poll exec's murder nabbed

MATI CITY, DAVAO ORIENTAL—Two of the four suspects in the murder in Lupon town of an election officer on Monday had been arrested, police announced yesterday.

Supt. Dionesio Corong, spokesperson of the Davao Oriental police office, said they believed that with the arrest of the two suspects, the assassination of Governor Generoso town election officer Sulaiman Alilian is nearing its closure.

Alilian was shot to death by armed men aboard a Toyota Corolla car while he was in Lupon on Monday afternoon.

Corong said just 10 hours after the killing of Alilian, the police bagged two of the suspects.

He identified the suspects as Jeffrey Liop, 26, a resident of Tagum City, and Edwin Saldaga, who allegedly served as the driver of the vehicle used by the gunmen.

He said two other suspects were able to escape during the operation in Tagum.

He also announced that the police were following up at least two angles in Alilian's murder, including business rivalry.

Alilian was into small-scale mining in Lupon. *Ferdinand Zuasola, Inquirer Mindanao*

20,000 settlers face eviction in 2 Cavite towns

TRECE MARTIRES CITY—MORE than 20,000 individuals are expected to be displaced as the provincial government of Cavite starts the demolition of illegal structures and houses built within so-called danger zones in the towns of Dasmariñas and General Trias on Thursday, Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi on Wednesday said.

Maliksi assured the families that the eviction will be done "justly and humanely."

Despite criticisms from urban poor groups who opposed the demolition, he said his administration is keen on cleaning the whole province of informal settlers.

The governor said he approved the final plan for the demolition after several actual site surveys and consultations done by the Task Force Against Professional Squatters and Squatting Syndicates.

"A dialogue with the affected residents and a thorough inspection of the affected areas were held several months prior to the demolition," Maliksi said.

Maliksi warned local officials who will try to meddle with the planned province-wide ejection of informal settlers.

"This campaign excuses no one. Local officials who will not conform with the law will have to face charges," he said.

He said the demolition is aimed at ensuring the safety of residents in communities found along the waterways and riverbanks who are exposed to danger whenever heavy rains inundate these areas.

He said the eviction will displace a total of 563 families from the four barangays of Dasmariñas and General Trias.

He said among those who will be ejected are 364 families in Barangay Langkaan 1, Dasmariñas and 199 families from Barangays Metro South Riverside, Little Forest and Santusan in General Trias.

Alda Lou Cabrera, provincial information officer, said the provincial government has pooled its resources, including manpower and equipment, to finish the ejection in a week.

Cabrera said they have also sought the assistance of the Philippine National Police and the Department of Public Works and Highways to ensure an orderly and peaceful demolition of the houses and establishments.

She likewise said the eviction plan was approved by both the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor and the Commission on Human Rights.

"Since last year, we have been coordinating with the concerned agencies regarding the demolition of squatters. We have also sent letters to the affected families since July," Cabrera said.

Maliksi, however, admitted there was no relocation plan for the displaced families as the law stated that occupants of illegal structures built before March 28, 1992 are the only ones entitled for relocation. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

‘Facilitating’ Mangyan learning

By Niña Catherine Calleja
Los Baños, Laguna

HAVING COME FROM A POOR village in Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro, Antonio Oroza, a Mangyan-Hanunuo, knew that education among the Mangyan youth was sorely lacking.

Now 36, Oroza, or “Dodong” as he is fondly called in his community, says the illiteracy is more pronounced during elections when candidates house and feed them before voting day and lowlanders fill out the ballots for them.

Lowland people would also derisively exclaim, “Mangyan *ka* (You are a Mangyan),” whenever someone makes a mistake, he says. “I am hurt at how people treat us.” he said in Filipino.

Oroza also saw how middlemen had duped Mangyan farmers in the pricing of their products. “Since most Mangyan farmers don’t know how to read, write and count, one sack of banana, for example, would be sold at P10, instead of P30,” he said.

Since childhood, Dodong had promised himself that he would pursue higher education and eventually teach his people. In 1999, he finished a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education course and became faculty head of a Mangyan high school in Occidental Mindoro.

He is now on his third year as a scholar of Master of Science in Development Communications at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños and is only completing his thesis—a research work that, he says, deals with the natural resource management of his tribe.

ANTONIO “Dodong” Oroza, 36, pursued higher education to teach fellow Mangyans.
NIÑA CATHERINE CALLEJA

Oroza is no ordinary student. From Grade 1 to Grade 5, he had endured the nearly two-hour walk from their house in Sitio Emuk to the school in the town proper.

He started going to school when he was 10 years old. He was also tasked then with looking after his siblings when his parents were out in the farm.

At first, he felt awkward mingling with other students because he could not speak Tagalog. For over six months, he just stayed outside the classroom.

When his teacher sent his father a letter asking why his son was not attending classes, his father spanked him heavily and scolded him, Oroza recalls. “From then on, I promised him I would study hard.”

In 1986, the Catholic Church, together with nongovernment organizations, conducted a mission among the Mangyan people, which had programs on livelihood, health and education. When Oroza was chosen a scholar, he was sent to the nearby town of San Jose to study.

Oroza says that he graduated because he studied hard and refrained from vices common in the town, such as smoking, drinking and gambling.

“Some of my fellow Mangyan scholars were shocked with the culture in the lowland. Some of them stopped going to school and went back to our sitio,” he said.

Paying back

After his graduation from the Occidental Mindoro National College, Oroza worked as a community organizer for one year in Sitio Lagnas, a neighboring village.

He became an agriculturist in town. “But, I felt uneasy with the work because I wanted to teach,” he said.

A high school in Barangay Pornaga in Magsaysay, where most students are lowlanders, offered him a teaching job. “When I consulted one of the priests who had funded my schooling, he reminded me of my goal to study so I could return and help my tribe community,” Oroza says.

He immediately applied for a teaching slot in the mountain and was accepted.

After a year, he was asked to be one of the pioneer facilitators of the Paaralang Mangyan na Angkop sa Kulturang Aalagaan (Pamanaka), a provincial school for Mangyan students.

Pamanaka aims to become independent and be supervised by the Mangyan community.

The school calls its teachers “facilitators” to dismiss the notion that they are the only source of knowledge. It was founded in 1999 at a time when discrimination was a major hindrance to the learning of Mangyan students.

“The school wants the facilitators to be well-trained so I took some masteral units in the Divine Word College in San Jose,” Oroza says.

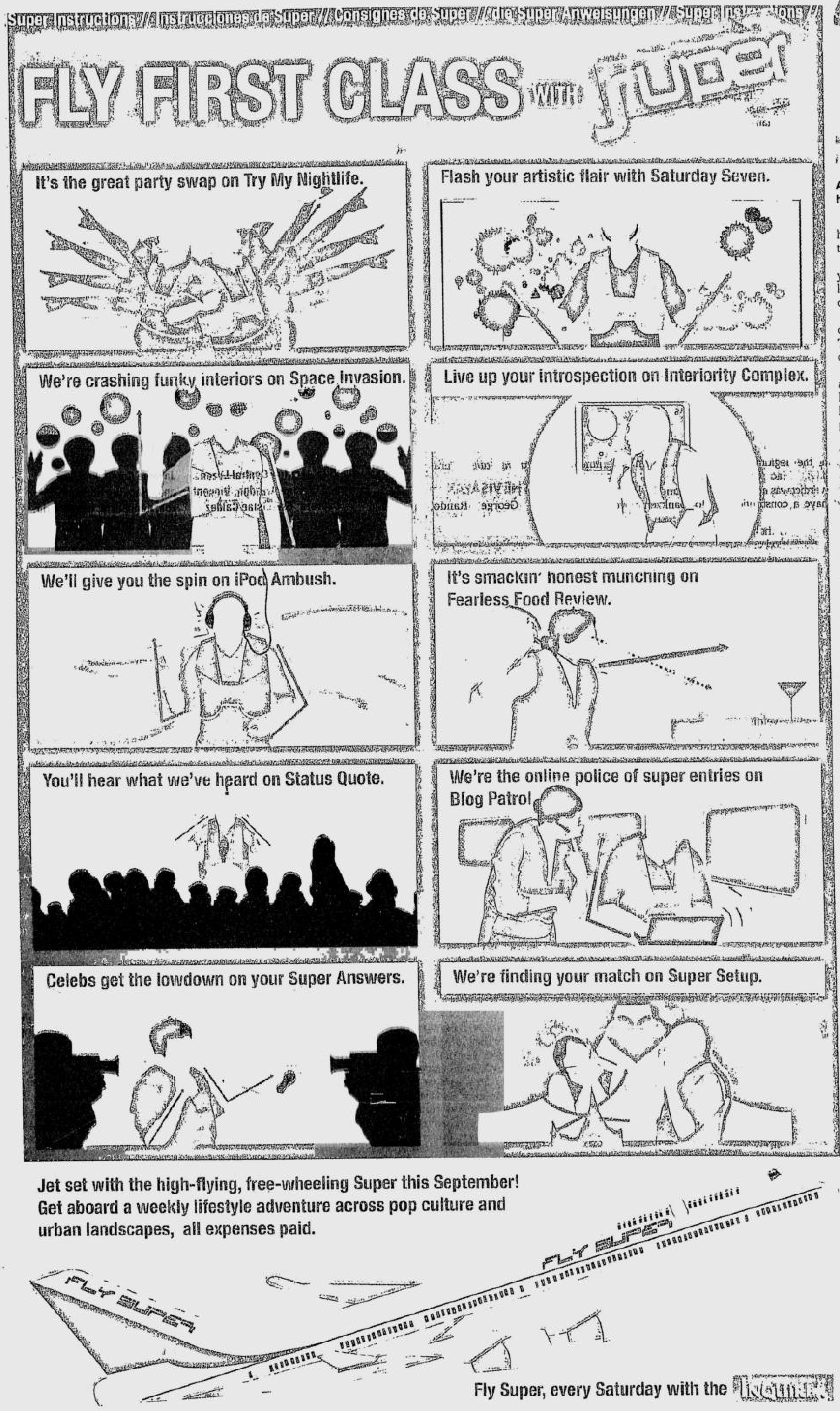
Because he is one of those who can understand the situation of the indigenous people, the Legal Assistance Center for Indigenous Filipinos (Panlipi) offered Oroza a scholarship under the Isang Bagsak Southeast Asia, a project being implemented by the UPLB College of Development Communication and the Panlipi.

He was also given consent by the Pasakami, an alliance of all the Mangyan tribes in Occidental Mindoro.

Oroza says the subjects were not difficult to learn but found it hard to engage in discussions with his foreign classmates from Thailand, Vietnam, Congo and Cambodia. “We speak in English in class. Sometimes I cannot fully express my ideas,” he said.

What he did was to note down the words he had encountered and looked them up in the dictionary or the Internet.

He says his subjects would be very helpful in his tribe. “I plan to do many things in my community when I go back like put up a radio program and a newspaper that would tackle the issues of the indigenous people.”


Super Instructions // Instrucciones de Super // Consignes de Super // die Super Anweisungen // Super Ins ions //
FLY FIRST CLASS WITH super
It's the great party swap on Try My Nightlife.
Flash your artistic flair with Saturday Seven.
We're crashing funky interiors on Space Invasion.
Live up your introspection on Interiority Complex.
We'll give you the spin on iPod Ambush.
It's smackin' honest munching on Fearless Food Review.
You'll hear what we've heard on Status Quote.
We're the online police of super entries on Blog Patrol
Celebs get the lowdown on your Super Answers.
We're finding your match on Super Setup.
Jet set with the high-flying, free-wheeling Super this September!
Get aboard a weekly lifestyle adventure across pop culture and urban landscapes, all expenses paid.
FLY SUPER
FLY SUPER
Fly Super, every Saturday with the INQUIRER

Filipinos glued to TV sets for 20 minutes

PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNtry, be they at home or places of work, were glued yesterday to television sets, watching the Sandiganbayan hand down its verdict on the plunder, corruption and perjury charges against deposed President Joseph Estrada.

When it was all over, the country was as divided as before.

Estrada's supporters and sympathizers assailed the verdict on the plunder case as a political move. Others hailed the decision as the triumph of justice, which should serve as a warning to people holding public office.

But to a number of Filipinos, the antigraft court's decision didn't matter to them at all because they said they would remain poor and would struggle every day to make ends meet.

LUZON

Marlon Garcia, construction worker, Baguio City. I agree with the court's decision that Erap (Estrada) is guilty. However, I believe that politics played a part in influencing the decision of Sandiganbayan and the sad thing is politics in our country is dirty.

Rodel Fontanilla, security guard, Tarlac City. The verdict on plunder is unjust. Estrada did not steal money from government. He received money from jueteng. Rallies will surely follow.

Boyet Anunciacion, jeepney driver, Mabalacat, Pampanga. I don't really care about that Erap case. I would rather work to feed my family. What I know is we will remain poor and continue to struggle hard every day just to make ends meet whether Erap is found guilty or not.

Erlinda Mesina, university librarian, Tarlac City. It's a fair and good decision. The evidence of Estrada's guilt was visible. Where did he get his wealth when he was a mayor and an actor except from the public coffers? Our leaders will behave because of the verdict.

Marissa Garcia, housewife, Daraga, Albay. I expected Erap to be handed the guilty verdict. GMA is powerful and smart and she can fix that. Erap is *bopol* (dumb) that's why he is punished for what he did.

Pedrito Salazar, editor-publisher of Nueva Ecija weekly Ang Dahong Palay. The Sandiganbayan erred in finding Estrada guilty of plunder. In the first place, the big amounts of money involved in his four plunder cases were not taken from government coffers but mostly from alleged protection money from illegal gambling (jueteng). He could have been guilty only of a lesser offense. Politics could have played a bigger weight in the decision.

Anthony Dee, businessman, Pampanga. Why should it be Erap? What happened to [the alleged irregularities involving] Joc-joc Bolante, Hello Garci, ZTE, NorthRail, Nani Perez, Expo, Megadike, Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway and other government officials [accused of corruption]?

Oscar Evangelista, retired UP professor, Puerto Princesa City. The rule of law prevails. Past hearings showed evidence of guilt. Popular sympathy in his favor notwithstanding, he has to be punished. But I also think he should be pardoned later.

Belinda Parugrog, chair of the Nueva Ecija Federation of Dairy Carabao Cooperatives. We are very, very sad. He is our idol because he helped us poor people get a better life through his program of improving the breed of carabaos for dairy purposes. We believe that he did not steal people's money. We lost a father who really cares for us.

Erlinda Ramiro, Ilocos Norte population officer. He should have been acquitted because he has been detained for a long time. The humiliation that came with his detention is more than enough to pay for his crime. Now that he is convicted, Filipinos will again suffer because protest rallies will be staged while the curse of this administration persists.

Rey Muñoz, tricycle driver, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. The verdict was not just because there were not enough evidence and the money involved came from jueteng, not public funds. We're in for worse times because the Arroyo administration has many corrupt officials.

Francisco Manlangit, Barangay chair, Hawan Ilaya, Virac, Catanduanes. I'm not satisfied with the decision. He helped so many people.

June Joson, history professor, Guiguinto, Bulacan. It was expected that Erap would be found guilty. It would be difficult to reverse the Supreme Court decision that upheld the legitimacy of GMA (President Macapagal-Arroyo). If the verdict was not guilty, we would have a constitutional crisis.

Jovie Punzalan, Catholic nun, Malolos City. It's a good and just decision. Just one good example to prove to the nation that justice is impartial.

Ruben Perez, construction worker, Baguio City: I just hope that this will not lead to any uprising again. We have to move on because we are still poor even if Erap was convicted. I still hope that he will tell the truth.

Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, Ms Arroyo's half-sister. I was so saddened by the guilty verdict on Estrada's plunder case because I believed he was innocent. I've been praying hard for President Erap's acquittal but I have complete trust in our Lord Jesus Christ. I was moved to tears like the rest.

Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio, a Catholic priest. This is a test case of Philippine justice. All of us Filipinos must go by the law. Nobody is above the law. Let us draw lessons, if not inspiration, from the cases of former president Estrada. It's a lesson for all government leaders, myself included, that we should not abuse the power granted by our positions.

Farah Trinidad, a distant granddaughter of former Sen. Luisa Estrada, Iba, Zambales. They grabbed power from him, punished him and then they will send the true president to jail. [She wept upon hearing the guilty verdict.]

Anna Ban, a high school teacher in Legazpi City. Justice must have its way. After Erap, Gloria.

Mayor Edward Hagedorn, Puerto Princesa City. I grieve for him. He will always be a friend to me no matter what. I hope his verdict will put closure on the issue. But it will depend on how the masses will take it.

Rizza Estadola, information officer, College of Veterinary Medicine, UP Los Baños. Reclusion perpetua for a former president? I feel pity for him. I do hope he will be given a second chance outside politics in order to live like an ordinary person. May this also serve as a warning to all government officials because they owe much to the public.

Ferdie de la Cruz, businessman, San Pedro, Laguna. Now that Erap has been convicted, what about the crimes committed by GMA, Mike Arroyo and their minions? They should also face the people and be convicted.

Rene Jebulan, ice cream vendor, Sorsogon City. If Erap really stole from the public coffers, somehow he shared it with the poor. Many in government who steal should be jailed.

Maan de los Reyes-Leopando, bank employee of Siniloan, Laguna. We were very glad at the rural bank. We hope that the next to face conviction will be Mike Arroyo.

Malou Pajutan, businesswoman, Victoria, Laguna. The guilty verdict against Erap was a 'moro-moro' because if the sentence was not guilty it would render President Macapagal-Arroyo a fake or unlawful president.

METRO MANILA

Rowena Tumala, fruit vendor, San Andres, Manila. He was not given a fair trial because all the allegations against him were fabricated. Nothing will change. We'll remain poor.

Rodney Riteza, businessman, Manila. He got a fair trial although the verdict was a political one. For the country, life will be the same as long as the people remain politically dumb.

Lawrence Vicedo, call center agent, Makati City. Not fair. I'm happy that he was found guilty but I think the punishment was too harsh. He already served time so I hope they lower his sentence. Ten years in jail should be enough.

Roger Bernabe, car sales agent, Kamuning, Quezon City. Forty years in prison is too much! It is not fair. He is innocent and should be set free as soon as possible.

Mon Vergara, businessman, Makati City. It was wrong. Compared with other anomalies, like the ZTE scandal, his (Estrada's) case is nothing. Besides, in jueteng, government funds are not directly involved. It's an underground economy that supports many families. It's only illegal because the law says so.

Joann Mangalindan, law graduate, Manila. It was a fair trial because he was given his day in court. He was defended by his lawyers. What will happen to our country? We're always in a mess, so what's new? It will be a hot issue for the next couple of days but thereafter it will be forgotten. Most Filipinos have no sense of history.

Clarito Villacorta, bondsman, Sta. Cruz, Manila. It was not fair. Isn't it that the money was just given to him. Even I would have accepted it. He did not ask for it and it was not government money.

Lina Hernandez, vendor from Don Bosco, Tondo. Ever since they wanted Erap imprisoned. It was a political decision. Former President Fidel Ramos and GMA joined forces because they knew *tatanga-tanga si* Erap.

THE VISAYAS

George Rando, mechanic, Borongan, Eastern Samar. I am not sure if Erap is guilty or not but I am sure the effect is entertaining because we forget our own problems temporarily just like when we watch soap operas.

Ricardo Presbitero, former Valladolid mayor. The Arroyo administration is afraid that if Estrada is found innocent and set free it will put the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency in jeopardy.

Pelegio Apostol, Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas. I'm quite sad that no other than our former President was convicted of plunder. But if it is for our God, for our country and for our fellowmen, let the wheels of justice roll.

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines. The one who will profit from the good fruit of such a decision or judgment is no less than the country itself, which is known to have been suffering from all kinds of graft and corruption and plunder.

Monico Puentevella, congressman of Bacolod. We are a government of laws and not of men and the law has taken its course. Let this be an occasion for the nation to put a closure on this regrettable chapter of our political history. Let us all pray for peace, for our former President Erap and move forward as a people.

MINDANAO

Juliet Santos, trader from Parang, Shariff Kabunsuan. We were surprised to learn that it only took so short a time for the Sandiganbayan to render the guilty verdict on President Estrada. Acquitting him of the perjury charges only proved that the man has been honest and sincere after all, unlike the bunch of anti-Erap hypocrites. They are more corrupt and should be charged too.

Eid Kabalu, spokesperson for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Cotabato. It's a fair decision. We cannot question the authority of the Sandiganbayan antigraft court. He (Estrada) used our Muslim brothers and sisters through his educational foundation for his own interest.

Evelyn Escleto, cashier of the Notre Dame Broadcasting Corp. I'm glad and I hope the decision brings this case to a close. It has brought our country so much anxiety and uncertainty.

Antonio Enriquez, farmer from Cateel town, Davao Oriental. The Sandiganbayan decision is good because it would deter others from doing irregularity. But I feel sad because while Estrada was found guilty, the Marcoses appeared to have become untouched by the government and the cases against them have dragged on. The case against Imelda Marcos and her family should also be decided upon.

Jessie Tejada, barangay treasurer of Kayok in Liloy, Zamboanga del Norte. We are not so interested in the verdict. We have different lives here. We don't care what is happening in Metro Manila. We are more focused on how to survive.

Mayor Edgardo Jamero, Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur. I expected a guilty verdict, but personally I am for his acquittal, hopefully in the Supreme Court. Erap is a lesser evil than those who accused him of plunder.

Lepeng Wee, businessman, Zamboanga City. I really feel very uneasy, I was really hoping that Erap will be acquitted. Six years in detention is enough.

Victor Macias, fish vendor, Zamboanga City. He is my idol and I feel very bad how he is being treated by the government.

Erico Pili, tricycle driver. Why would I waste my time watching Erap? He's been detained for more than six years but nothing has changed in our lives. He's been president before, nothing has changed in my life. Now with Arroyo, I am still a tricycle driver.

Venus Gamboa-Palalay, a Malaybalay City Hall employee. I am not pro-Estrada but I did pity him. I hope it signals that more graft and corruption cases will be tried and can progress.

Reports from Tonette Orejas, Anselmo Roque and Cesar Villa, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Cristina Arzadon, Vincent Cabreza, Estanislao Caldez and Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon; Reports from Villamor Visaya Jr., Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Delmar Cariño, Ben Moses Ebreo, Vanessa Bianca Piedad, Angela Songco, Desiree Caluza and Donna Demetillo, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Anselmo Roque, Russell Arador, Tonette Orejas, Jun Malig and Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon; Redempto Anda, Marlon Ramos, Niña Catherine Calleja, Marlon Luistro, Bobby Labalan, Donna Virola, Romulo Ponte, Ephraim Aguilar and Jaymee Gamil, Fernan Gianan, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Kenneth M. del Rosario, DY Yap, Tina G. Santos; Allison Lopez in Manila;
Nestor P. Burgos, Carla P. Gomez, Diosa Labiste, Alex Pal, Kit Bagaipo, Jhunnex Napallacan, Jolene Bulambot, Joey Gabieta and Jani Arnaiz, Inquirer Visayas;
Charlie Señase, Edwin Fernandez, Ferdinand Zuasola and Julie Alipala, Grace Cantal-Albasin, Aquiles Z. Zonio, Jeoffrey Maitem, Edwin O. Fernandez, Charlie C. Señase, Richel V. Umel, Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez, Judy Quiros, Inquirer Mindanao

---

GMA: Verdict to end destabilization talk

From page A1

cause of the ruling, the President felt that her administration would become more stable.

In a statement, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines said that the verdict was "a call to repentance and a call for change or conversion affecting not only the person of President Estrada but also many others in our government."

The CBCP statement issued by its president, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Jaro, Iloilo, said the country, long suffering from the effects of graft and corruption, would ultimately benefit from the Sandiganbayan decision.

'Continuing learning story'

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales said he would pray so that Estrada would have the humility and patience in facing the court's judgement, calling it a "continuing learning story of his life."

"The verdict, even if still appealable, should remind all that the privileged authority to lead and to serve is always, and without exception, for the welfare of the people served. Let this be a constant reminder to the people elected or appointed to serve. The moral in this is "BE MORAL," Rosales said in a statement.

He urged the laity that the proper recourse of Estrada was the higher court, "instead of settling the score in the streets or elsewhere."

Don't single out Erap

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who was Senate president during Estrada's aborted impeachment trial, said Estrada's "commitment to the rule of law deserves praise."

"The government must now show that it did not single out Estrada," Pimentel said, adding that other cases of plunder involving the Arroyo administration should now be prosecuted.

Majority Leader Francisco Pangilinan echoed Pimentel's call.

"Malacañang should realize that unless it faces squarely the issues of extrajudicial killings, JocJoc Bolante's fertilizer scam and other controversies in its last three years in office, this conviction casts a very long and dark shadow on the Arroyo administration," Pangilinan said.

The opposition has alleged that Bolante, as agriculture undersecretary, presided over the distribution to administration allies of P728 million in fertilizer funds to ensure Ms Arroyo's victory in the 2004 presidential election.

Villar saddened

Estrada's allies in the Senate, including those who took part in his impeachment and ouster, said the rule of law had prevailed, while administration allies said the nation should move on with the closure to the six-year trial.

Senate President Manuel Villar, who was the House Speaker who railroaded Estrada's impeachment in 2000, said he was saddened by the decision and hoped that Estrada would still be acquitted by the Supreme Court.

"We join our people in praying that episodes such as these will only toughen, not tear, the moral fabric of our nation," Villar said.

Sen. Loren Legarda, who openly cried when Estrada's impeachment trial was aborted in 2001, also skipped questions whether she believed the guilty verdict was correct.

"I don't know if he deserves this because we did not see the evidence that the prosecution lawyers presented in court," she told reporters.

Rule of law

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who had served as one of Estrada's legal advisers, said as a friend he was sad for the former President.

"But one thing, it would show that the rule of law prevails in this country. In the end, it will be the judicial system that will decide matters of this nature," he said.

Enrile, who is now in the Arroyo administration camp, refused to believe that the court was influenced by Malacañang. "I understand the court went out of its way to analyze the evidence very carefully," he said.

"In a way, if there's anything that could be learned from this is that maybe those who are now wielders of power must be very circumspect in their conduct and in their manner of performing their functions and exercising their powers," Enrile added.

Administration Senators Pia Cayetano and Richard Gordon lauded Estrada's "courage" and "demonstration of faith in the judicial system."

"In fairness to President Estrada, we trust that equal standards of justice be applied to powerful personalities who are implicated in far worse cases of graft and corruption," said Cayetano.

Gordon called it both a "sad and happy day for our country and for our people."

Lacson respects decision

He said it was sad since a popular ex-President was convicted of plunder. "But this is also a happy day for us because the verdict affirms that the rule of law reigns over our land ... No one, not even the highest official of the land, is above it," he said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Estrada's former national police chief, said he was shocked by the verdict but he respected the court's decision.

"I may choose to disagree or be disheartened by the (verdict) but the justices obviously had better access to all the information and evidence they need to arrive at their unanimous decision," he said.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II, Estrada's former trade secretary, said he could only extend moral support.

"I served under President Erap as his trade secretary. Throughout that time, not once did he ask me to do something indecent or irregular. And for that, he has earned my deepest respect despite all that has happened," he said.

Where convicted felons go

None of the senators, not even administration allies, questioned why Estrada was brought back to his Tanay estate instead of the National Bilibid Prisons where all convicted felons go.

"He should not be humiliated," said Enrile.

Pangilinan insisted Estrada "must be accorded the respect and dignity [due to] a former head of state."

Teofisto Guingona, who as a senator started the chain of events that led to Estrada's ouster by accusing him of "betrayal of public trust," made himself scarce yesterday. Calls to him went unanswered and he also skipped a press conference by allies of Estrada.

No strong argument

Guingona joined the Estrada camp after he called for Arroyo's resignation at the height of the "Hello Garci" controversy.

In the House of Representatives, Deputy Majority Leader Crispin Remulla, Estrada's legal adviser, said he leafed through the decision and found no strong argument that would have backed up a guilty verdict.

"The government can't afford an acquittal ... An acquittal would have caused instability," Remulla told the INQUIRER.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said the conviction would result in "months of political tension." Economic gains, he said, need a prolonged period of political stability to be sustainable.

With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Christine O. Avendaño, Fe Zamora, Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Beverly T. Natividad, Cynthia D. Balana, Norman Bordadora, Allison W. Lopez, Margaux C. Ortiz and Jeannette I. Andrade

IN THE KNOW

Estrada's coaccused are still at large

THE OTHER COACCUSED OF former President Joseph Estrada in his plunder case—Yolanda T. Ricaforte, Alma Alfaro, John Doe also known as Eleuterio Ramos Tan or Mr. Uy, Jane Doe also known as Delia Rajas and other John Does and Jane Does or other *jueteng* collectors—are still at large and are yet to be tried.

Rajas, Alfaro and Tan were pointed out as the people in whose names were deposited or drawn various checks amounting to P170 million which was sourced from tobacco excise tax share allocated for Ilocos Sur.

Ricaforte was the alleged auditor for "jueteng" money. She reportedly had bank accounts where the money was deposited. She was last known to be in the United States. Her husband was appointed by former President Estrada as undersecretary of the Department of Tourism.

Warrants of arrest issued

Presiding Justice Teresita Leonarda De Castro yesterday said that alias warrants of arrest should be issued against all of Estrada's coaccused. An alias warrant of arrest is nothing more than a copy of the original warrant which could not be served for one reason or another.

Once their locations are known, the sheriff of the Sandiganbayan, with the help of the police, will issue the warrant.

Sources: Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban and Dean Mariano F. Magsalin Jr. of the Arellano Law School ***Schatzi Quodala, Inquirer Research***

S&R MEMBERSHIP SHOPPING

SEPTEMBER TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER 13-16, 2007

MEMBERS' TREAT!

CRAZY RUSH!
Incredibly exciting buys!
Special discounts!
Instant Freebies!

DON'T MISS IT!

Shop! Win! Save and even get rewarded for it! It's too good to be true. It happens only at your S&R, make sure you catch it!

NON-MEMBERS ARE INVITED TOO!
A 5% non-member fee will be charged to your purchase. Please see us for your One-Day Shopping Pass.

Store hours: 9 am to 9 pm

BUY ONE TAKE ONE ON SELECTED ITEMS

50%OFF ON SELECTED ITEMS

S&R MEMBERSHIP SHOPPING
Shopping Reinvented. Shopping Refined.

S&R The Fort
32nd Street, 5th Avenue,
Bonifacio Global City,
Taguig City, Philippines
Phone: 888-0640

S&R Alabang
West Gate Development, Filinvest
Corporate City, Alabang-Zapote Road,
Alabang, Muntinlupa, Philippines
Phone: 771-9999

S&R Congressional
30 Congressional Avenue,
Ramon Magsaysay, Bago Bantay,
Quezon City, Philippines
Phone: 929-8888

S&R Baclaran
Bradco Avenue, Aseana Business
Park Boulevard 2000, Baclaran,
Parañaque, Philippines
Phone 853-9999

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.4318, Series of 2007

Court bases ruling on 2 illegal acts

From page A1

ket purchases using state pension funds.

The court observed that this was the first case of plunder to be filed against "the highest official of the land, a former President, among others."

"Needless to state, the resolution of this case shall set significant historical and legal precedents," it said.

The 212-page decision handed down by the Sandiganbayan yesterday said prosecutors had proven beyond reasonable doubt that "elements of plunder" existed in those two acts, enough to convict the 70-year-old Estrada.

Prosecutors were not as successful in their other charges—that Estrada pocketed P130 million in kickbacks from the tobacco excise tax meant for Ilocos Sur and he "unjustly enriched himself from commissions, gifts, kickbacks" that found their way into the infamous "Jose Velarde" account at the Equitable-PCI Bank.

They also failed to establish enough ground to convict Estrada's coaccused son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, and lawyer Edward Serapio, a former presidential legal counsel.

The Jose Velarde account is supposed to be Estrada's secret bank account with Equitable-PCI Bank and was at the center of impeachment proceedings before his ouster in 2001.

The court noted that the penalty prescribed by the Anti-Plunder Law was either reclusion perpetua (a prison term of up to 40 years) or death. It meted out the lesser penalty of imprisonment, "there being no aggravating or mitigating circumstances."

The ex-President is also to "suffer perpetual absolute disqualification" from public office, the court said.

Estrada's six-year detention since April 2001 will already be "credited to him in full."

Boracay Mansion

The court also forfeited in favor of the government the following assets of Estrada that were sequestered early in the trial:

- Cash representing Estrada's total illegal gambling ("jueteng") payola amounting to P545.29 million, with interest and income earned, including the P200 million deposited in the name of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation.
- The P189-million commission "collected" by Estrada and which ended up in the Velarde account, after he "ordered" the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System to buy Belle Corp. shares.
- Real property consisting of a house and lot dubbed as "Boracay Mansion" located at No. 100 11th Street, New Manila, Quezon City.

The property got such a name for purportedly having a swimming pool edged with sand "imported" from the famous resort island in Aklan.

"After a thorough evaluation of the established facts, we hold that the prosecution has proven beyond reasonable doubt the elements of plunder," the justices said.

Among these elements was the fact that Estrada was President at the time the acts were committed, it said.

The court also took note of the "series of acts of receiving bi-monthly collections from jueteng" from November 1998 to August 2000, and "a series of two acts of ordering" the GSIS and SSS to purchase Belle Corp. shares and later "collecting or receiving" the commission.

Without purest motives

The court conceded that prosecution star witness Luis "Chavit" Singson "'did not have the purest of motives in exposing the jueteng collections."

"'Undoubtedly and by his own admission, he resented not being given the franchise for the Bingo Two Balls, the government-sanctioned numbers game, in his home province of Ilocos Sur. He feared the demise of his political career as the said franchise was given to his political opponents," it noted.

However, the court said, there were "'circumstances which lend credibility" to his testimony regarding the so-called ledgers he kept to keep tabs of Estrada's jueteng collections.

"'The court finds credible material portions of (his) testimony insofar as they are corroborated by independent and competent evidence," it said.

As to the P130-million tobacco tax kickbacks that were supposedly delivered to Estrada by Singson and coaccused Charlie "Atong" Ang, the court said the prosecution "failed to prove who among the accused benefited from the misappropriation (of the funds) and in what amounts."

Prosecution failed in Velarde account

"The prosecution likewise failed to offer evidence on the alleged illegal sources of the numerous deposits in the Jose Velarde account which belongs to former President Estrada, except for the commission received from the sale of Belle shares to GSIS and SSS and the money collected from illegal gambling," the court said.

The plunder law, it said, requires proof that a "series or combination of overt or criminal acts" allowed ill-gotten wealth to be deposited in the Velarde account.

The account contained up to P3.2 billion at the time the complaint was filed against Estrada.

Legal complexities

"Throughout the six years over which the court proceedings in this case unfolded, this court confronted numerous novel and complicated legal issues (including the constitutionality of the plunder law, propriety of house arrest, among others)."

Noting that the case had received unparalleled attention from the media and other sectors of society, the court added: "Indeed, the factual and legal complexities of the case are further compounded by attempts to sensationalize the proceedings for various ends.

"However, this Court is ever mindful of its imperative duty to act as an impartial arbiter ... Thus, the decision of this Court follows, upon no other consideration other than the law and a review of the evidence on record."

Excerpts from the Sandiganbayan decision in Case No. 26558

(Editors note: This is a condensed version of the 212-page decision by the Sandiganbayan convicting Joseph Estrada on two counts of plunder):

PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES
- versus -
JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA,
Former President of the
Republic of the Philippines,
JOSE "JINGGOY" ESTRADA,
CHARLIE "ATONG" TIU HAY SY ANG,
EDWARD S. SERAPIO,
YOLANDA T. RICAFORTE,
ALMA ALFARO,
JOHN DOE also known as LEONARDO-DE CASTRO, PJ, ELEUTERIO RAMOS TAN or MR. UY,
JANE DOE also known as DELIA RAJAS,
JOHN DOES and JANE DOES.

DECISION

Republic Act (RA) No. 7080 as amended was approved on July 12, 1991, introducing into our criminal legal system the crime of "plunder". This law penalizes public officers who would amass immense wealth through a series or combination of overt or criminal acts described in the statute in violation of the public trust.

....

AMENDED INFORMATION:

The undersigned Ombudsman Prosecutor and OIC-Director, EPIB, Office of the Ombudsman, hereby accuses former PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, Joseph Ejercito Estrada a.k.a. "ASIONG SALONGA" AND a.k.a. 'JOSE VELARDE", together with Jose 'Jinggoy' Estrada, Charlie "Atong" Ang, Edward Serapio, Yolanda T. Ricaforte, Alma Alfaro, JOHN DOE a.k.a. Eleuterio Tan OR Eleuterio Ramos Tan or Mr. Uy, Jane Doe a.k.a. Delia Rajas, and John DOES & Jane Does, [with] the crime of Plunder ... committed as follows:

That during the period from June, 1998 to January, 2001, in the Philippines, and within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, accused Joseph Ejercito Estrada, THEN A PUBLIC OFFICER, BEING THEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, by himself AND/OR in CONNIVANCE/CONSPIRACY with his co-accused, WHO ARE MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY, RELATIVES BY AFFINITY OR CONSANGUINITY, BUSINESS ASSOCIATES, SUBORDINATES AND/OR OTHER PERSONS, BY TAKING UNDUE ADVANTAGE OF HIS OFFICIAL POSITION, AUTHORITY, RELATIONSHIP, CONNECTION, OR INFLUENCE, did then and there willfully, unlawfully and criminally amass, accumulate and acquire BY HIMSELF, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, ill-gotten wealth in the aggregate amount OR TOTAL VALUE of P4,097,804,173.17, more or less, THEREBY UNJUSTLY ENRICHING HIMSELF OR THEMSELVES AT THE EXPENSE AND TO THE DAMAGE OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE AND THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, through ANY OR A combination OR A series of overt OR criminal acts, OR SIMILAR SCHEMES OR MEANS, described as follows:

a) by receiving OR collecting, directly or indirectly, on SEVERAL INSTANCES, MONEY IN THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF P545,000,000, MORE OR LESS, FROM ILLEGAL GAMBLING IN THE FORM OF GIFT, SHARE, PERCENTAGE, KICKBACK OR ANY FORM OF PECUNIARY BENEFIT, BY HIMSELF AND/OR in connivance with co-accused CHARLIE 'ATONG' ANG, JOSE 'Jinggoy' Estrada, Yolanda T. Ricaforte, Edward Serapio, AND JOHN DOES AND JANE DOES, in consideration OF TOLERATION OR PROTECTION OF ILLEGAL GAMBLING;

b) by DIVERTING, RECEIVING, misappropriating, converting OR misusing DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, for HIS OR THEIR PERSONAL gain and benefit, public funds in the amount of P130,000,000, more or less, representing a portion of the P200,000,000 tobacco excise tax share allocated for the Province of Ilocos Sur, BY HIMSELF AND/OR in CONNIVANCE with co-accused Charlie 'Atong' Ang, Alma Alfaro, JOHN DOE a.k.a. Eleuterio Tan OR Eleuterio Ramos Tan or Mr. Uy, and Jane Doe a.k.a. Delia Rajas, AND OTHER JOHN DOES AND JANE DOES;

c) by directing, ordering and compelling, FOR HIS PERSONAL GAIN AND BENEFIT, the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) TO PURCHASE 351,878,000 SHARES OF STOCKS, MORE OR LESS, and the Social Security System (SSS), 329,855,000 SHARES OF STOCK, MORE OR LESS, OF THE BELLE CORPORATION IN THE AMOUNT OF MORE OR LESS P1,102,965,607.50 AND MORE OR LESS P744,612,450, RESPECTIVELY, OR A TOTAL OF MORE OR LESS P1,847,578,057.50; AND BY COLLECTING OR RECEIVING, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, BY HIMSELF AND/OR IN CONNIVANCE WITH JOHN DOES AND JANE DOES, COMMISSIONS OR PERCENTAGES BY REASON OF SAID PURCHASES OF SHARES OF STOCK IN THE AMOUNT OF P189,700,000, MORE OR LESS, FROM THE BELLE CORPORATION WHICH BECAME PART OF THE DEPOSIT IN THE EQUITABLE-PCI BANK UNDER THE ACCOUNT NAME 'JOSE VELARDE";

d) by unjustly enriching himself FROM COMMISSIONS, GIFTS, SHARES, PERCENTAGES, KICKBACKS, OR ANY FORM OF PECUNIARY BENEFITS, IN CONNIVANCE WITH JOHN DOES AND JANE DOES, in the amount of MORE OR LESS P3,233,104,173.17 AND DEPOSITING THE SAME UNDER HIS ACCOUNT NAME 'JOSE VELARDE" AT THE EQUITABLE-PCI BANK.

. . .

EVIDENCE PRESENTED:

[FIRST COUNT -- Jueteng kickbacks]

The principal witness of the prosecution in this first specification is former Ilocos Sur Governor Luis "Chavit" C. Singson.

He testified extensively on the charge that former President Estrada accumulated ill-gotten wealth in the above-mentioned amount through the monthly remittance to him of seems of money collected from operations of illegal gambling, commonly known as "jueteng", based in the different provinces of the country allegedly in consideration of the prosecution or unimpeded operation of said illegal gambling.

....

Gov. Singson claimed jueteng money was delivered to former Pres. Estrada initially every end of the month, starting September of 1998 and later every 15th and at the end of the month.

Gov. Singson continued the collection as instructed by former Pres. Estrada, still with the help of Atong Ang, from November of 1998 until August of 2000.

The amounts of money collected from jueteng during the said period were listed in the ledger per month and per province. The ledger also listed the expenses paid for using the jueteng protection money.

Every fifteen (15) days, Gov. Singson himself delivered protection money to former Pres. Estrada in the amount P5,000,000 or a total of P10,000,000 every month. The protection money was delivered usually in cash but sometimes in check.

...

According to Gov. Singson, the jueteng collections came every 15 days, at the middle and the end of the month or five (5) days after the end of the month.

When all the collections had arrived, the list was finalized and then transferred to the computer. Ledgers were prepared upon instructions of former Pres. Estrada because the latter was strict with money.

Gov. Singson narrated that when former Pres. Estrada was still the Vice President, they were already collecting jueteng money but not in all provinces.

Paper trail

When he assumed the presidency, he called Gov. Singson and Atong Ang to start jueteng collections in provinces without protection money.

When the jueteng operators gave protection money to former Pres. Estrada, they were not apprehended anymore although there were instructions to the contrary which were for show or for record purposes only.

. . .

With respect to the alleged acts of receiving or collection of sums of money from illegal gambling, in the form of share or percentage, the Court finds credible material portions of Gov. Chavit Singson's testimony insofar as they are corroborated by independent and competent evidence.

...

The paper trail of the P200,000,000 deposited for the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation, Inc. incontrovertibly established that the said sum of money came from jueteng collections through the cashier's/managers checks purchased by Ricaforte using the deposits in the accounts that she opened in the different branches of Equitable PCI Bank.

. . .

Mind-boggling amounts

The slew of bank documents, involving mind-boggling amounts of money and authenticated by competent and credible bank officers, convinces the Court that collection of jueteng money for former Pres. Estrada indeed took place and the entries in the ledgers were not manufactured by Gov. Chavit Singson.

Payments or disbursements of the jueteng protection money to persons related to or closely associated with for Pres. Estrada belie his denial that the funds accounted for in the ledgers belong to him.

Indeed, the Court cannot see why Gov. Singson would make such large and substantial payments in the form of checks drawn from his Metrobank account, to personalities such as William Gatchalian, Laarni Enriquez, Loi Estrada, or other intimate associates of former Pres. Estrada unless the money belonged to former Pres. Estrada and the funds were being disbursed according to his instructions.

....

Based on 2 sets of ledgers, the total jueteng collections for former Pres. Estrada from November 1998 to August 2000 amounted to P545,291,000.

Erap foundation

The [amount of] P200,000,000.00 of these sums of money found their way into the account of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation.

. . .

To this Court's mind, while the P200,000,000 was clearly illegally amassed wealth, the evidence on record is insufficient to prove beyond reasonable doubt that Serapio was aware that the questioned funds were in fact amassed from jueteng protection money collections and that the fact of the unusually large amount of the deposits into the foundation's account was with criminal intent on the part of Serapio to "launder" or conceal the illegal nature of the funds to serve the purpose of the acquisition or amassing of ill-gotten wealth by former President Estrada.

....

More so, this Court is not prepared to conclusively rule that the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation is not a legitimate foundation or that it was set up purely to hide his illegally amassed wealth.

The incorporation papers and business permits of the Foundation are authentic and regular. The personalities behind the said foundation appear to be well-respected academicians.

....

Gaps in prosecution case

[SECOND COUNT -- Tobacco excise tax]

With respect to the act of divesting, receiving or misappropriating a portion of the tobacco excise tax share allocated for the Province of Ilocos Sur, this Court finds that indeed an amount of P130,000,000 out of the P200,000,000 share in tobacco excise taxes of the Province of Ilocos Sur was withdrawn from the provincial coffers and misappropriated and misused to the damage and prejudice of the said province.

. . .

There are gaps in the prosecution's evidence on the alleged delivery to former Pres. Estrada of the diverted funds or a portion thereof.

It was not established how much cash was allegedly stashed in the boxes that came from Westmont Bank and which were unloaded/reloaded at the house of Catalina Ang or how much cash was in the boxes allegedly brought to former Pres. Estrada's house.

No one testified that he saw cash being handed to former President Estrada, Sen. Loi Estrada or Jinggoy Estrada.

Serious doubts are engendered by the bare testimony of Gov. Singson, who, by his own account, did not even touch the boxes of money, nor count the money inside the boxes that arrived at the home of Catalina Ang and allegedly reloaded for delivery to Polk Street.

Gov. Singson did not also see the alleged turnover of the money by Ang to former Pres. Estrada, Dr. Loi Estrada or Mayor Jinggoy as he stayed at the corner of Polk Street, so many meters away from the highly fenced and gated [Estrada] house.

....

Singson testimony farfetched

In this Court's view, certain details of Gov. Singson's testimony on this point are rather incredible and far-fetched.

...

This Court does not find the evidence sufficient to establish beyond reasonable doubt that former President Estrada or any member of his family had instigated and/or benefited from the diversion of said funds.

[THIRD COUNT -- Using GSIS and SSS fuinds to buy shares of stocks of Belle Corp. and collectiong a P189,700,000 commission, which became part of Jose Velarde account):

...

We find that the prosecution has established beyond reasonable doubt that former President Estrada directed and instructed Carlos A. Arellano (then President of the SSS) and Federico C. Pascual (then President of GSIS) to buy Belle Shares.

....

The Court finds that former Pres. Estrada is the real and beneficial owner of EPCIB combo account C/A No. 0110-25495-4 and S/A No. 0160-62501-5 in the name of Jose Velarde.

The eyewitness account of prosecution witness Clarissa Ocampo that she saw former Pres. Estrada sign the name Jose Velarde in the various documents presented to him and ... was undisputed by (him) and constitutes direct evidence that former President Estrada signed as Jose Velarde.

Another direct evidence that (he) is Jose Velarde is the admission of former President Estrada that he signed as Jose Velarde in the documents presented to him by Ocampo.

...

As stated, SSS and GSIS used the funds belonging to its millions of members to buy Belle Shares upon instruction of former President Estrada who benefited for his personal gain from the P189,700,000 commission paid in consideration of the purchase of the Belle shares by SSS and GSIS.

The amount of P189,700,000 deposited to the Jose Velarde account of former President Estrada are public funds...

....

Reasonable doubt

[FOURTH COUNT -- Unjustly enriching himself from commissions, gifts, kickbacks or any form of pecuniary benefits in the amount of more or less P3,233,104,173.17 and depositing the same under his account name 'Jose Velarde"].

.....

The prosecution presented overwhelming evidence that there were numerous deposits of astoundingly large sums of money into the Jose Velarde account.

However, the prosecution failed to prove the predicate act/s as defined under Section 1(d) of R.A. No. 7080 through which the said deposits could have been acquired or amassed, except for the amount of P189,700,000, representing illegal commissions from the sales of Belle shares and the money collected from illegal gambling.

....

All that the prosecution has succeeded in showing is that the Jose Velarde account is the repository or receptacle of vast wealth belonging to former Pres. Estrada.

...

This Court finds that the prosecution failed to prove, beyond reasonable doubt, who among the accused benefited from the misappropriation of the excise tax share of Ilocos Sur and in what amounts.

The prosecution likewise failed to offer evidence on the alleged illegal sources of the numerous deposits in the Jose Velarde account which belongs to former Pres. Estrada, except for the commission received from the sale of Belle shares to GSIS and SSS and the money collected from illegal gambling.

The Anti-Plunder Law requires the prosecution to prove the series or combination of overt or criminal acts through which ill-gotten wealth deposited in the Jose Velarde account was amassed, accumulated or acquired. The prosecution failed to discharge this burden of proof.

....

In sum, the Court finds that prosecution has proven beyond reasonable doubt the commission by the principal accused, former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada, of the crime of plunder but not so in the case of former Mayor Jose Jinggoy Estrada and Atty. Edward Serapio.

WHEREFORE, in view of all the foregoing, judgment is hereby rendered in Criminal Case No. 26558 finding the accused, former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada, GUILTY beyond reasonable doubt of the crime of PLUNDER defined in and penalized by Republic Act No. 7080, as amended.

On the other hand, for failure of the prosecution to prove and establish their guilt beyond reasonable doubt, the Court finds the accused Jose 'Jinggoy" Estrada and Atty. Edward S. Serapio NOT GUILTY of the crime of plunder, and accordingly, the Court hereby orders their ACQUITTAL.

The penalty imposable for the crime of plunder ... is Reclusion Perpetua to Death. There being no aggravating or mitigating circumstances, however, the lesser penalty shall be applied in accordance with Article 63 of the Revised Penal Code.

Accordingly, accused former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada is hereby sentenced to suffer the penalty of Reclusion Perpetua and the accessory penalties of civil interdiction during the period of sentence and perpetual absolute disqualification...

SO ORDERED.
TERESITA J. LEONARDO-DE CASTRO
Presiding Justice
Chairperson
FRANCISCO H. VILLARUZ, JR.
Associate Justice
DIOSDADO M. PERALTA
Associate Justice

Inquirer Research

'Catch' on cyber education deal

Opposition solon cites poor facilities in target schools

By Christian V. Esguerra

AT LEAST 7,000 SCHOOLS around the country stand to benefit from the controversial P26.48-billion Cyber Education Project (CEP). But here's the catch: How do you introduce cutting-edge satellite technology in schools that have yet to experience the simple comfort of electricity?

Opposition Rep. Rufus Rodriguez raised the matter in a privilege speech yesterday, questioning the lack of transparency, practicality and general logic of the Department of Education's Cyber project that will be set up by a Chinese company with loans from China's Exim Bank.

"It's a veritable white elephant," he said of the multimillion-dollar project cornered by an "obscure Chinese company identified as Tsinghua Tongfang Nuctech Co."

In fact, "this will be the biggest of all white elephants," he later added in an interview with INQUIRER, referring to big projects that turn out to be unworkable.

During the House budget hearings yesterday, Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes admitted that his department was not consulted on the CEP.

Asked by Rodriguez if DepEd proceeded with the CEP without coordinating with the agency, he replied:

"I'm certain that anybody who talks about (the) cyber (education) project will have to worry about electrification," Reyes said.

In his speech, Rodriguez said a natural solution to the powerless recipient-schools would be the purchase of 7,000 generators.

"Imagine buying 7,000 generators and installing them in far-flung areas in the country. The cost for the acquisition of these generators is not included in the project cost," he noted.

Citing the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Investment Coordination Committee last March 19, Rodriguez said the CEP would benefit a total of 37,794 elementary and high schools outside of first- and second-class cities.

An additional 4,282 elementary and high schools belonging to first- and second-class cities would also be covered by a similarly controversial program, the National Broadband Network project, said the lawmaker.

Rodriguez said the $460-million (or P26.48-billion) CEP was to be made possible, primarily by a "concessional" loan of P22.77 billion from China. The remainder of P3.71 billion was to be shouldered by the Philippine government.

With the amount, he said the CEP easily dwarfed the $329-million national broadband project cornered by China's ZTE Corp.

Over the next five years, he said the government would spend P3.3 billion for the maintenance and operating costs of the CEP. By the sixth year, he said, the DepEd would need to acquire an additional P600-million budget to sustain the program.

"The socio-economic analysis of the CEP does not show any benefit. The completely secretive and suspicious handling of the CEP deal can not be tolerated," he said in his privilege speech.

OUTGOING ENVOY
President Macapagal-Arroyo puts on a sash on outgoing Japanese ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki whom she awarded the Order of Sikatuna with Rank of Datu inside the Music Room of Malacañang Palace during his farewell call yesterday. It was Ms Arroyo's first appointment of the day after the Sandiganbayan handed down its verdict on the plunder case against former President Joseph Estrada.

LYN RILLON

Senate told: Answer ex-justices' bid

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS asked the Senate to comment on a petition from two retired Court of Appeals justices seeking to stop the chamber's investigation into the "Hello Garci" controversy involving wiretapped conversations of President Macapagal-Arroyo that supposedly show the President's alleged involvement in election cheating.

The high court has given the Senate 15 days from Tuesday to comment on the petition of retired justices Santiago Ranada and Oswaldo Agcaoili.

In their Sept. 6 petition, Ranada and Agcaoili said the Senate probe, which has already started though the wiretapped tape has yet to be played, would violate the Anti-Wiretapping Law, or Republic Act 4200.

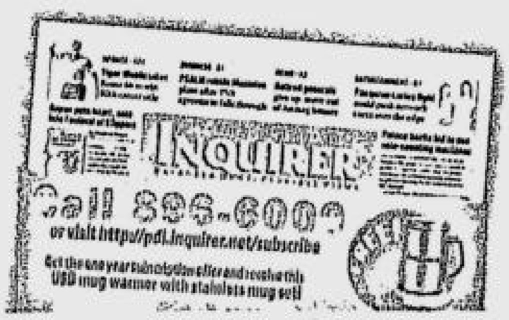
They also said the Senate investigation was not in order as the rules of procedure necessary for the conduct of inquiries in aid of legislation have not yet been published.

The retired justices asked for a temporary restraining order and an eventual permanent injunction against the Senate investigation.

Ranada and Agcaoili, who filed the case as concerned citizens, taxpayers and members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, said legislative inquiries that violate the laws, human rights and the Constitution should not be allowed to continue.

Obviously,
how people read you
is based on
what newspaper
you read.

Subscribe to the country's
most read newspaper.



Call 896-6000
or visit http://pdi.inquirer.net/subscribe
Get the one year subscription offer and receive this USB mug warmer with stainless mug set

Aplus METRO
Website: www.inquirer.net/metro
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Agad-agad! Puwedeng hulugan ng up to 6 months pa! car insurance Simpleng Kausap! CALL 88-725-88 Cebu Office: (032)234-0808 Toll Free 1-800-1888-LINK(5465)

Erap diehards protest guilty verdict

Reduced in number but still fiercely loyal to idol, supporters show objection

By Kristine L. Alave, DJ Yap and Jeannette I. Andrade

THE EMOTIONS WERE JUST AS INTENSE AS they were in 2001 when former President Joseph Estrada was arrested.

But the crowd of supporters was not as thick.

Pro-Estrada forces trooped to the streets yesterday in Quezon City, Makati, San Juan City and other areas, but they were far from the 5,000-strong the organizers had vowed to mobilize.

In San Juan City, where Estrada launched his political career, close to 100 people held a noise barrage at around noon, hours after the Sandiganbayan found him guilty of plunder.

They carried banners that said "Not Guilty, Palayain si Erap (Free Erap)," shouted pro-Estrada slogans and banged on metal posts, pots and pans with stones to show their indignation over the fate of the city's beloved son.

At city hall, all employees were glued to television sets in the morning. After the verdict was read, some were teary-eyed and all were glum.

Several opposition figures, under the group Friends of Erap, held a Mass and a press briefing at Club Filipino later in the day to denounce the verdict and to express their continued support for Estrada, who was ordered to remain under house arrest in his Tanay, Rizal villa.

"President Estrada has been convicted in a puppet court whose strings directly connect to Malacañang," said Armida Siguion Reyna said, reading the group's statement.

Linggoy Alcuaz, spokesperson of Estrada's Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino party, said the public would not accept the guilty verdict. He added that the opposition had planned several mass actions all over Metro Manila.

Thousands of the deposed leader's loyalists converged at the heart of the Makati central business district in the afternoon to express their indignation over Estrada's conviction.

But a sudden downpour soon thinned the crowd at the intersection of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas Street, causing them to disperse after a two hour-program, highlighted by a speech from Mayor Jejomar Binay.

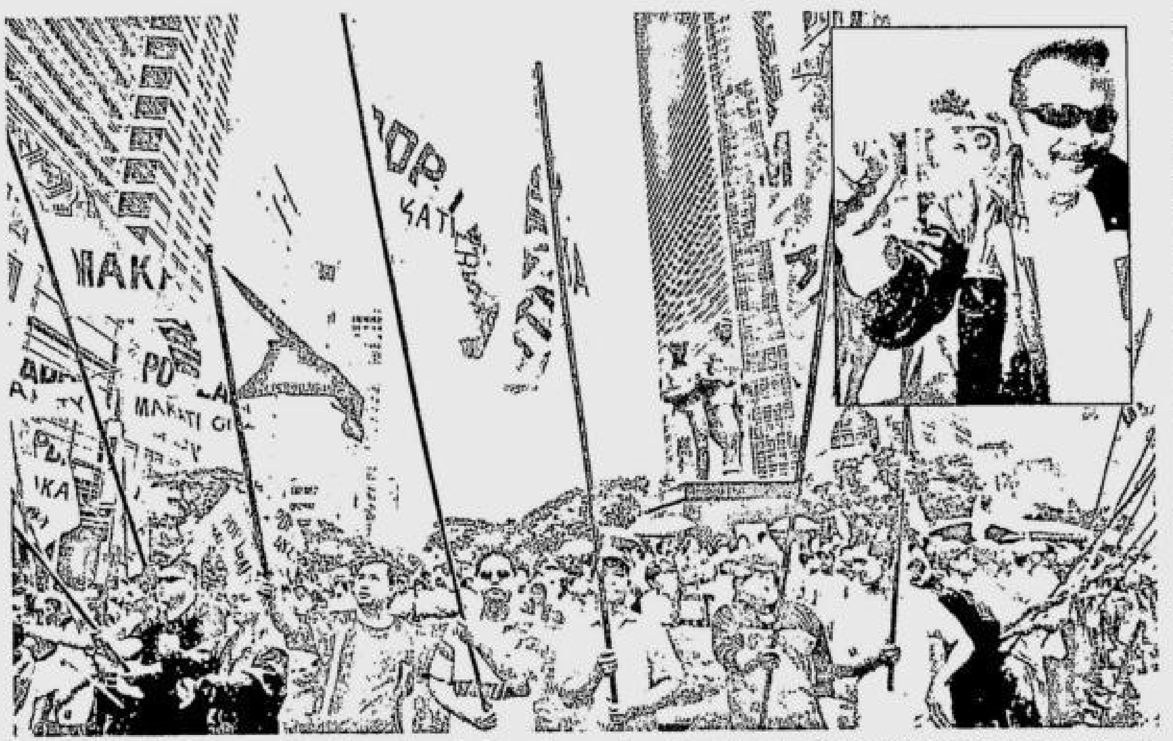
Also the United Opposition president, Binay said the Estrada conviction added fuel to the brewing pot of scandals and controversies that had marked President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration.

"If you have to compare it to the ZTE broadband deal, the Erap case is peanuts. If the Erap case is plunder, the ZTE deal is super plunder," Binay said.

Makati police chief, Supt. Gilbert Cruz, estimated the crowd at 2,500, mostly from the PDP-Laban Party, of which Binay is national president.

The downpour, which lasted for most of the afternoon, also dampened the enthusiasm of around 100 residents of Parola Compound in Tondo, Manila, who had gathered to stage a noise barrage at 3 p.m.

Another group of supporters also staged a protest at the Mabuhay Rotunda near the boundary of Manila.



SUPPORTERS of former President Joseph Estrada march on the streets of Makati City after he was found guilty of plunder while an Erap look-alike (inset) joins another group of protesters on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

ERIK ARAZAS, JOAN BONDOC

There was no rally, however, in Mendiola after Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim turned down several groups' applications to hold protests in the area.

Reporters, meanwhile, spotted "Erap" mingling freely with members of the Oust Gloria Movement on the northbound lane of Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

Although he sported the same sideburns, a paunch and Estrada's trademark orange wristband, this man was not the deposed president who at that time was waiting for justices of the court's special division to pass judgement on him.

Romeo Mago, 57, told the INQUIRER that he was one of the original members of the Young Tigers' Club organized by Estrada and the late Fernando Poe Jr., in the late 1980s.

It was not only "Erap" who stole the thunder from the pro-Estrada speakers at the makeshift stage on Commonwealth Avenue. "Zorro" also strode into the middle of the crowd of 700 and displayed the bravado of the Mexican myth.

Clad in full body tights with "Palayain si Erap (Free Erap)" stickers, a cape swirling behind him, a Mexican hat marked "Zorro" and a mask, Zorro challenged a phalanx of laughing antiriot policemen to a fight by standing before them with his hands on his waist.

In front of the Sandiganbayan, several Estrada supporters put on a show to the amusement of members of media.

A woman shouted in Filipino, "Why are you doing this to me? Am I not the one on trial? All I want is the truth! Come out with the truth!"

At one point, she grabbed the microphone from Puerto Princesa Edward Hagedorn who was being interviewed by a television crew.

There was also 34-year-old Luisito Nabong Iguico who claimed to be the long-lost son of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago. "My name is Tisoy. I am the real son of the senator whose real name is Jovita Nabong Iguico," the man, clad in a tattered T-shirt, told the media. *With Kenneth M. del Rosario, Tarra V. Quismundo and Tina G. Santos*

METROBRIEFS

Man loses van to thief

A CALL center agent lost his vehicle to an unidentified thief in Barangay Pinagkaisahan, Quezon City, at dawn yesterday. Cesar Baseo, 27, told the police that he was awakened by the sound of someone starting the engine of his Isuzu Crosswind (license plate ZBL 610) at 4:30 a.m. He ran outside his house only to find his van gone.

Kenneth M. del Rosario

Ayala Center hotline

ONGOING and upcoming changes in Ayala Center guarantee a better shopping and entertainment experience with new and reconfigured mall areas, better located transport terminals and more accessible parking slots. Shoppers can call up the Ayala Center hotline 7060618 between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. for the latest information on the center like the location of taxi bays or transport terminals. They can even report their own observations or experiences such as traffic snags and security concerns.

QHS Class '82 reunion

MEMBERS of Quirino High School Class of 1982 will have a grand reunion on Sept. 22, Saturday, at the Daza Park and Recreation Center in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. The silver homecoming celebration called "Beinte Singko na po kami" will be held from 3 p.m. until midnight. Tickets are priced at P500 each and entitle the holder to *merienda*, dinner and a raffle ticket. For more information, please call Cecil at 9118790, Lea (0919-4881300), Rodrigo (0919-5883881), Revelyn (0917-8031209) and Jennifer (0917-8439348).

Erap conviction forebodes ill for GMA

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE CONVICTION OF FORMER PRESIDENT Erap of plunder shows that once in a while some judges in this country know how to render a just verdict.

But why "once in a while?" Because justice in this country usually favors the rich and the influential, or is rendered according to what the public dictates.

In other words, some judges can be bought or swayed by others in deciding cases.

In the case of Erap, the Sandiganbayan justices rendered the "guilty" verdict despite pressure from his legions of supporters.

The results of a recent survey showed most people wanted Erap acquitted, given a lighter sentence or pardoned if found guilty.

But the Sandiganbayan magistrates were not swayed by the immense popularity of the person they were trying for plunder, an offense so grievous that the sentence is life imprisonment.

We should all congratulate the Sandiganbayan justices for upholding the rule of law instead of the rule of the mob.

* * *

The conviction of a former head of state has set a precedent and forebodes ill for the present leader.

If Erap, whose popularity with the masses closely follows that of Ramon Magsaysay's, could be sent to prison, there's no telling President Gloria, the second most hated Chief Executive next to Ferdinand Marcos, might suffer the same fate.

GMA has been accused of many wrongdoings.

But she has been able to brush away all the accusations because she has the backing of the House of Representatives or because the citizenry has been overcome by "people power" fatigue.

Still, the specter of going to jail for her alleged misdeeds will continue to haunt Ms Arroyo long after she leaves office.

* * *

A leader who receives much flak from critics gets inured to criticisms.

President Gloria has been criticized too often and too much that she no longer cares about what the press and the public say about her.

A Palace insider told me that in the early days of her presidency, GMA was very concerned about adverse publicity.

"But now, Mon, she no longer gives a s**t what the media say. She's gone over the biggest hump, which was the 'Hello Garci' (scandal). All the rest is just a minor bump on the road," said the Palace functionary.

There's a term for that: Callous.

* * *

Voting 8-7, the Supreme Court has temporarily stopped the implementation of the $329-million contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project which has allegedly been attended by alleged bribery and overprice.

The government officials who reportedly benefited from the deal will be forced to return the kickbacks they received from the Chinese government.

There's no problem with the "big players" who can easily get money from many sources of corruption.

But what about the small fry who have already spent their share of the money?

When this administration is gone, the identities of the NBN players, including the "Small One" and the "Big One," will be revealed.

DID YOU KNOW

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Institute of Islamic Studies was created on Nov. 22, 1973 by Ferdinand Marcos' Presidential Decree No. 342. The institute was part of the UP's Philippine Center for Advanced Studies (PCAS).

In 1979, Executive Order No. 543 abolished the PCAS and reestablished the Institute of Islamic Studies as a separate unit of the university. The institute aims to create a deeper understanding between Muslims and the rest of the community.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

United Auctioneers, Inc.
INSPECTION DATES: SEPTEMBER 23, 24 & 25, 2007
2006 Most Outstanding Heavy Equipment Auction
BEST EQUIPMENT PRICE QUALITY DEAL
"NO MINIMUM PRICE" 3-DAY PARADE AUCTION
SEPT. 26, 27 & 28, 2007
(WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY)
SALE STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP
WITH BREAKER
HITACHI EX100WD-2 WHEEL EXCAVATOR
DYNAPAC CA25-2 VIBRATORY ROLLER
KOMATSU GD31-3H
WITH RIPPER
KOMATSU D85A-12
LATE MODEL
100% DUMP TRUCK
ISUZU 10W DUMP TRUCK
FUSO 12W SELF LOADER W/RAMP
LATE MODEL
-30°C
ISUZU FORWARD REFRIGERATED WING VAN
MITSUBISHI TOURIST BUS
MITSUBISHI DION
HONDA CRV
the PREMIER SOURCE of EQUIPMENT for your BUSINESS NEEDS!
BLDG. 1455 ARGONAUT HIGHWAY, TEL. NOS: (047) 252-1129 * 252-1155 TO 58 * (02) 920-0810
SUBIC BAY FREEFORT, PHILIPPINES (02) 711-5270 * CEL NOS: (0917) 7262824 * (0917) 8187000
FAX NO.: (047) 252-5569 * E-MAIL: uai@uauctioneers.net * WEBSITE: www.uauctioneers.net
TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT FINANCING AVAILABLE THRU ORIX METRO LEASING & FINANCING CORP. TEL. (02) [illegible]

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Shinzo Abe

Resigned as prime minister of Japan Wednesday

Sept 21 1954	Born in Tokyo, Japan
Mar 1977	Graduated in law from Seikei University, Tokyo
1993	Elected to parliament
July 2000	Appointed deputy chief cabinet secretary, his first job on the national stage
2002-2003	Secretary general of Liberal Democratic Party
Oct 31 2005	Appointed chief cabinet secretary
Sept 20 2006	Wins party elections and succeeds Junichiro Koizumi as leader of the LDP
Sept 26	**Appointed prime minister after parliamentary vote**

120907 AFP

Shinzo Abe, Japan's defeated ideologue

TOKYO—WHEN HE TOOK OFFICE last year, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was the face of a new Japan—young, assertive and on a mission to roll back the legacy of World War II defeat.

But for many of the voters who deserted his party, Abe's scandal-plagued government came to symbolize not change but the dirty, rough-and-tumble backroom politics of earlier generations.

The 52-year-old, who announced his resignation on Wednesday in the face of plunging approval ratings, was rocked by incessant scandals involving his cabinet, with several ministers quitting and another committing suicide.

It all was supposed to turn out quite differently.

A third-generation politician, the mild-mannered Abe was groomed from birth for the job by his elite, conservative family.

His grandfather, Nobusuke Kishi, was a World War II cabinet member and was briefly jailed as a war criminal. Kishi later became a post-war prime minister and risked his career to build a new alliance with the United States.

In September, Abe became the nation's first premier born after the war and the youngest in post-war times. He vowed a new era was upon Japan.

Japanese media initially likened his style to that of a US president, with cameras zooming in on how he would walk hand-in-hand with his wife Akie—unusual in a country where politicians' spouses rarely appear in public.

With a slogan of building a "beautiful country" proud of its past, Abe quickly got to work on conservative causes such as rewriting the pacifist constitution imposed by Washington after the war. *AFP*

Japan's Abe quits as prime minister

TOKYO—JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER Shinzo Abe resigned on Wednesday after less than a year in power, falling victim to a string of scandals that hampered his reform agenda and sent his popularity plummeting.

The conservative 52-year-old, the youngest Japanese leader in modern times and the first to be born after World War II, came to office pledging to restore the nation's pride and rewrite the pacifist constitution.

But a series of gaffes and scandals cost his ruling party control of the upper house of parliament in July, and Abe conceded that the resurgent opposition had made it impossible for him to do his job.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Kaoru Yosano, the government's top spokesperson, also alluded to health issues that may have been partly behind Abe's decision to step down.

Abe's position had looked increasingly precarious as he struggled to persuade the opposition to back his reform agenda and an extension of a controversial mission in support of US-led forces in Afghanistan.

"I have made my utmost efforts with my belief that we should not stop reforms. But unfortunately, the party cannot hold talks with the opposition party because I am the prime minister," a visibly emotional Abe said.

Abe said he had instructed his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to pick a successor "as soon as possible." The party will likely hold an election to chose a new leader on Sept. 19, public broadcaster NHK reported.

JAPAN'S Prime Minister Shinzo Abe leaves the podium after announcing his resignation at a nationally televised press conference in Tokyo Wednesday. AP

Possible successors are believed to include Taro Aso—the LDP secretary general and former foreign minister known for his blunt, conservative views—and former chief cabinet secretary Yasuo Fukuda, seen as a safe pair of hands.

Opposition leader Ichiro Ozawa of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) has vowed to use his bloc's newfound power in parliament to fight the Indian Ocean mission, which provides refueling support for US-led forces in Afghanistan.

Ozawa said that Abe's resignation would not soften his party's opposition to the mission, which polls show is unpopular with voters.

"Our thoughts will not change just because the head of the LDP changes," he told reporters.

The laws authorizing the mission are set to expire on Nov. 1, so prolonged wrangling could force Japan to briefly suspend the operation even if the ruling party eventually rams the required legislation through parliament.

The United States has warned that a Japanese withdrawal would damage relations between the long-standing allies, and analysts say Abe's resignation won't help matters.

"How can the United States expect strong commitment from such a frail leadership?" said Takehiko Yamamoto, a professor of political science at Waseda University.

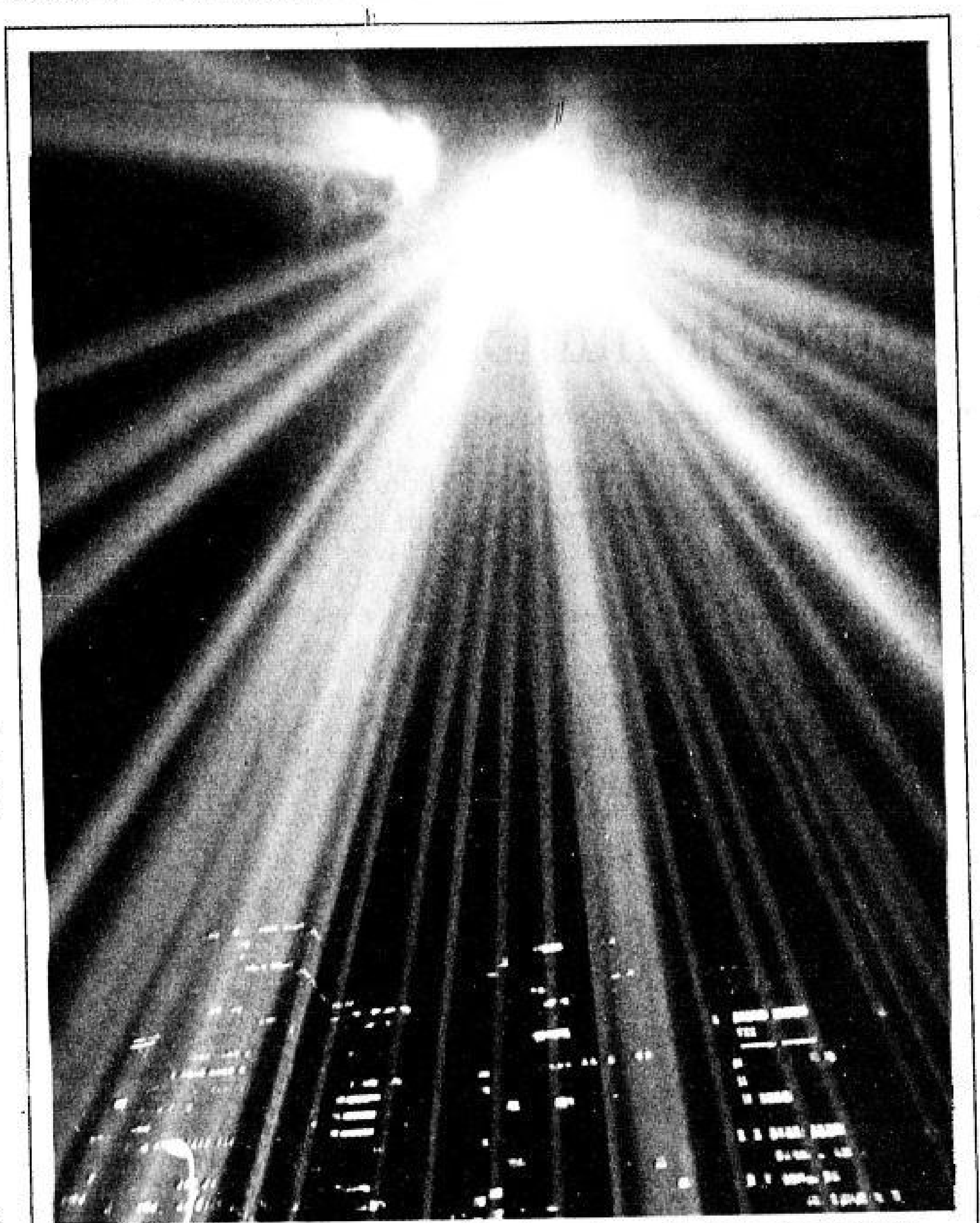
Abe suffered an election drubbing in July when rural voters deserted the LDP in droves, failing to relate to the prime minister's ideological agenda, which focused on building Japan's global standing and rewriting the constitution.

The opposition instead campaigned on bread-and-butter concerns such as mismanagement of the pension system and income inequality, leading to its upper house victory.

Four of Abe's cabinet ministers resigned under a cloud of scandal, and a fifth committed suicide.

In the end the pressure from within his party apparently became too much in the face of record low approval ratings and calls from backbenchers to stand down after the election defeat.

"Abe's sudden resignation was likely triggered by a policy *coup d'etat* inside the LDP," said Robert Feldman, an economist at Morgan Stanley. *AFP*



A 'TRIBUTE IN LIGHT' illuminates the night sky over lower Manhattan near Ground Zero at the World Trade Center site, on Sept. 11 in New York, on the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks. AFP

US remembers Sept. 11 terror attacks in silence

NEW YORK—AMERICANS STOOD IN silence to remember the nearly 3,000 people killed in the Sept. 11 attacks on Tuesday as Osama bin Laden resurfaced to praise the suicide hijackers who carried them out six years ago to the day.

New Yorkers observed silent moments at the very times jets crashed into the World Trade Center towers and when each tower collapsed. Ceremonies took place also at the Pentagon and at a Pennsylvania field where the third and fourth planes crashed.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates vowed revenge on anyone who might attack the United States.

"The enemies of America, the enemies of our values and our liberty, will never again rest easy for we will hunt them down relentlessly and without reservation," he said in Washington outside the section of the Pentagon that was struck.

Bin Laden, the al-Qaida leader behind the attacks, defied the United States with a new audiotape. On it, he praised "the 19 champions" who hijacked the US planes and crashed them.

In New York, bagpipes played, accompanied by a steady drum beat, in a park neighboring the former disaster site known as Ground Zero, which is now a busy construction zone. Church bells pealed to mark the moment.

"Six years have passed, and our place is still by your side," New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg told the gathered family and friends of those who died.

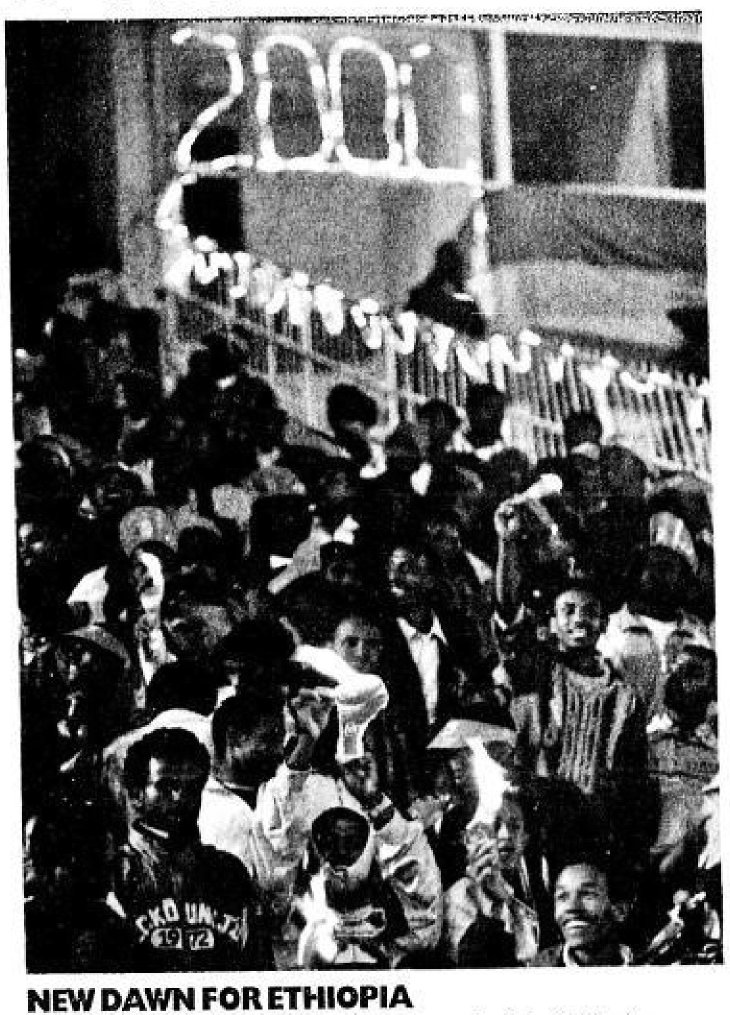
Rain fell on the somber ceremony, where many wore funereal black to remember the 2,750 killed when the towers fell. Their names were read aloud, taking hours, in what has become an annual tradition.

In all, 2,993 people died, including the 19 hijackers.

President George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and their wives led a moment of silence on the White House lawn at 8:46 a.m., when the first plane struck in New York.

About 200 Republican and Democratic lawmakers gathered, as they did on the night of the attacks, on the steps of the US Capitol, and sang "God Bless America" on Monday night.

"Six years ago, Republicans and Democrats stood united on these steps, and we stand united again today," House of Representatives Republican Leader John Boehner of Ohio said. *Reuters*



NEW DAWN FOR ETHIOPIA

People light fires to celebrate the approach of the Ethiopian Millennium at a stadium in Addis Ababa, Sept. 11. Soldiers stood guard, partygoers changed into national costume, and goats were slaughtered in the countdown to Ethiopia's celebrations to ring in the new Millennium seven years after the rest of the world. REUTERS

Time magazine to fight Suharto libel ruling

JAKARTA—TIME MAGAZINE will fight an Indonesian Supreme Court libel ruling in favor of former President Suharto which ordered the US weekly to pay more than $100 million in damages and print apologies, Time's lawyer said on Tuesday.

"We will use all means available to challenge this decision," Todung Mulya Lubis told a news conference regarding the Supreme Court finding, which became public on Monday.

"What is at stake here is not only Time but also the freedom of the press," he said, adding that he and the magazine had not been notified formally of the verdict.

Time, owned by Time Warner Inc., published a May 1999 cover story alleging Suharto and his family had amassed a fortune of around $15 billion, including $9 billion in an Austrian bank account.

Lubis said the court ruling was a setback for reform of the country's judiciary, rated by anti-graft watchdogs as one of the institutions most prone to corruption.

"All attempts to fight corruption are being demolished by this Supreme Court's judgment," he said.

The Supreme Court "found the article has damaged the reputation and honor of the grand general of the Indonesian armed forces and former President of Indonesia," Supreme Court spokesperson Nurhadi said on Monday.

"The lower level courts have wrongly applied the law, therefore their decisions have been annulled."

A spokesperson for Time in Hong Kong declined to comment.

"Time has not received any notification from the court regarding a judgment, so we are unable to comment at this time," spokesperson Michelle Shao said in an e-mail to Reuters.

In its 1999 story "Suharto Inc.," Time wrote that a four-month investigation by its correspondents covering 11 countries found six of Suharto's children owned significant stakes in at least 564 companies in Indonesia, and their overseas interests included hundreds of other firms from the United States to Uzbekistan. *Reuters*

Bush to announce troop cuts in Iraq

WASHINGTON—US PRESIDENT George W. Bush on Thursday is expected to announce a cut of 30,000 soldiers from Iraq by next July in an address to Americans on the divisive issue of US troop levels in the war-torn country.

Bush's nationally televised speech follows two days of testimony to lawmakers this week by the top US military commander in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus, who warned an early withdrawal would have "devastating" consequences.

The Iraq war is a pivotal issue for the Bush administration, which has urged more time for the current "surge" strategy boosting troops to 160,000 from its prior level of around 130,000 earlier this year.

US media reported that Bush is expected to say that troop numbers could return to the pre-surge level by July 2008, when just six months remain of his presidency, leaving the next stage of the conflict up to his successor amid a heated race for the White House.

The US president, who is to speak for around 15 minutes Thursday at 9 p.m., has long vowed to base his decisions about Iraq on the recommendations of military leaders on the ground.

But more than four years after the US-led invasion, Americans see an Iraq gripped by violence, sectarian strife and political corruption—far from the ideal model of democracy in the Middle East that Bush had touted.

Anger is also rising over the human and material cost of the war, with more than 3,700 US soldiers and tens of thousands of Iraqis killed since March 2003 and half a trillion dollars spent.

Sixty-one percent of nearly 2,700 US adults surveyed online last month by the Harris Poll group said they felt Bush was "too eager" when he sent US troops into Iraq in March 2003, while two-thirds gave Bush bad marks for his handling of the conflict over the past few months.

According to another poll by ABC News and the Washington Post, 55 percent want to see troops come home by next spring. *AFP*

Massive bomb attack foiled in Turkey

ANKARA—POLICE THWARTED A MASSIVE bomb attack in Ankara, finding and defusing more than 600 kilograms of explosives found packed into a minibus parked near a marketplace, authorities said.

Bomb experts said the materials found on Tuesday were similar to those seized in the past from Kurdish separatists. Turkey has accused Kurdish rebels of smuggling hundreds of pounds of explosives into the country from neighboring Iraq, where the guerrillas have been based for decades. Turkey is pressuring Iraq and the United States to crack down on the group in Iraq, threatening to do the job itself if others do not.

If authorities determine that rebels belonging to the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, were behind the plot, that could fuel debate about whether to stage a cross-border offensive to eliminate the threat—despite strong objections from the United States and Iraq against such a unilateral military move.

The guerrillas have staged numerous bombings and suicide attacks in the past but the bomb discovered on Tuesday was the largest ever.

The governor's office said police found sacks of bomb-making materials, including chemicals and gas canisters connected to a mobile phone—the method often used by Kurdish rebels in roadside bomb attacks against troops in the country's Kurdish-dominated southeast near the Iraqi border. The type of the chemicals was not revealed.

"A possible disaster has been prevented," Gov. Kemal Onal told reporters.

Sniffer dogs led officers to the blue minibus parked in a multilevel parking lot just meters from a food market, authorities said. Turkey, an ally of the United States in the fight against terrorism, had increased security on Tuesday, the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the US.

The van's license plate had been stolen from another vehicle, and the owner had tipped off police about the theft, the state-run Anatolia news agency said.

A witness said an unidentified man had parked the minibus there at around 6 a.m., saying he was bringing goods to sell at the market, Anatolia reported.

Police evacuated houses and cordoned off the area while explosives experts spent three hours defusing the bomb, Police Chief Ercument Yilmaz said.

In May, a suicide bombing in one of Ankara's busiest markets killed six people and wounded dozens more.

That bombing was blamed on the Kurdistan Workers' Party, but the group denied involvement.

Kurdish rebels have been fighting for autonomy for Turkey's Kurds since 1984. Tens of thousands of people have been killed in the campaign against the government.

Turkey, a predominantly Muslim but secular country, is a key Nato ally. It supports US operations in Afghanistan and Iraq through the Incirlik Air Base in the southern part of the country, one of the most important US military bases in the region.

Homegrown Islamic militants are also active in Turkey.

Suicide bombers linked to al-Qaida hit Istanbul in 2003 with truck bombs containing ammonium nitrate-based bombs, killing 58 people in attacks that targeted two synagogues, the British Consulate and a British bank. In February, a court sentenced seven people to life in prison for the bombings. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

New bomb threats in Mexico

MEXICO CITY—A leftist rebel group claimed responsibility on Tuesday for bomb attacks on Mexican oil and gas pipelines earlier this week, and threatened more assaults against the state-owned oil company. Blasts at six pipelines on Monday disrupted oil and gas supplies, forced thousands from their homes and caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damage to oil monopoly Pemex and other businesses. No one was injured. It was the second such attack in two months and the Popular Revolutionary Army, or EPR, rebel group said it planned more. The group accuses the government of secretly abducting two of its guerrilla organizers. ***Reuters***

Zimbabwe archbishop resigns

HARARE—Zimbabwean Catholic Archbishop Pius Ncube, an outspoken critic of President Robert Mugabe, resigned on Tuesday, two months after being sued for adultery in a case which he called a vicious government-backed attack. The 60-year-old cleric, head of the southern Bulawayo archdiocese since 1997, said in a statement he was resigning to protect the Church but would defend himself against the adultery charges in court. "I wrote to the Pope within days of what was obviously a state-driven, vicious attack not just on myself but by proxy on the Catholic Church in Zimbabwe," Ncube said. The Vatican said in a one-sentence statement that Pope Benedict had accepted Ncube's resignation under an article of Church law which covers clergy who can no longer perform their duties for health reasons. ***Reuters***

Megawati eyes presidency anew

JAKARTA—Former Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri has said she is ready to stand in the 2009 presidential elections, a member of her party said on Tuesday. She made the announcement on Monday at a national congress attended by 16,000 members of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P), the country's second largest political group, said party official Budiman Sudjatmiko. "Megawati's vision is for economic and political independence. It is with this vision that Megawati expressed her readiness to be nominated," Sudjatmiko told Reuters. Megawati, the taciturn daughter of Indonesia's founding president Sukarno, took over from Abdurrahman Wahid in 2001 after he was sacked as president by the national assembly for incompetence. ***Reuters***

China plans major air raid drill

BEIJING—China is to hold a major air raid drill in Shanghai, the likely target of Taiwan missiles in the event of conflict, a sign the country's leadership still views war as a possibility with the island it claims as its own. Saturday's drill will coincide with a rally in Taiwan's Kaohsiung city at which the ruling Democratic Progressive Party will try to mobilize one million people to demonstrate support for the island's frustrated bid for membership of the United Nations. Many security analysts see the Taiwan Strait, the 180-km (110-mile) stretch of water between China and its tiny neighbor, as one of the most dangerous flashpoints in Asia. ***Reuters***

Syria protests Israeli air strike

UNITED NATIONS—Syria protested to the United Nations about Israel's reported air strike against its territory, accusing the Jewish state of aggression and "flagrant violation" of its airspace, according to a letter circulated on Tuesday. Syria on Thursday accused Israel of the bombing and said it was able to respond to the Jewish state's "aggression and treachery." Israel has declined to comment on the charge. In the letter to Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and UN Security Council members, Syria's UN ambassador, Bashar Ja'afari, said Israeli aircraft, as they departed, "dropped some munitions but without managing to cause any human casualties or material damage." ***Reuters***

Bake Shop
PRIVATE PROPERTY NO TRESPASSING

Turn your land into the dream business you've always wanted to put up.

Live your Dream without having to sell your assets!

Whatever your dream may be, you can now fulfill it with BPI Family Savings Bank LIVE YOUR DREAM Credit Line. Apply for a Live Your Dream Credit Line using the following collaterals:

- **Highly marketable real estate properties**
- **Traded club shares accredited by the bank**
- **PSE-listed shares of stock accredited by the bank**
- **Deposits with any branch of BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank or BPI Direct Savings Bank**
- **Investment Funds/Placements with BPI Asset Management and Trust Group (AMTG)**
- **Government Securities**

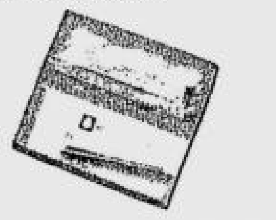
Use your Live Your Dream Credit Line for the dream business you've always wanted, for the dream vacation you've been planning for, for your child's education, or for stock market opportunities.

The Live Your Dream Credit Line conveniently comes with a checkbook for easy availment. It allows you to pay interest only for the number of days that you actually use the facility. Monthly payments for the principal are not required. You may pay any availment anytime, fully or partially, as your cash flow permits.

Start fulfilling your dreams with Live Your Dream Credit Line!

For more information, call 754-6596 or 89-100, log on to bpiexpressonline.com
or visit any BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center near you.
Provincial Business Centers: Pampanga (045) 961-8378, San Pablo (049) 562-3711,
Lipa (043) 757-1000, Cebu (032) 231-3395, Davao (082) 235-3558

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK
Get started on tomorrow



Peso Deposits
DOLLAR SAVINGS

It's about time to live your dream

In a world where opportunities abound, there shouldn't be any reason not to take the ones that come to you. Dreams are meant to come true. You have to find ways to reach for your goal and just make it happen.

BPI Family Savings Bank will help you do just that: "Live your Dream."

While most existing loans in banks have very specific market and products, "Live Your Dream Credit Line" allows you to make the most of what you need.

BPI's senior vice president for marketing, Nita Claravall said this product has been gaining demand over the last 2 years.

"Live Your Dream Credit Line can be classified as a multipurpose loan and can be spent at your own time and need," she said.

Being the No. 1 consumer bank in the country, BPI Family Savings Bank is always in touch with what a family needs.

Live your Dream Credit Line is a secured, all-purpose credit facility providing instant cash for business, investments, education, or personal consumption.

"It can be a good tool for existing businesses," Claravall explains."If you want to expand your business, want to hire more people, want to double the production, need funds for salaries or as working capital, the Live your Dream Credit Line is the most convenient way in doing those things."

Live Your Dream Credit Line can give up to P20 million as a stand-by credit. Clients of the bank who have a minimum deposit of P550,000 can already avail themselves of this flexible credit line of up to P500,000.

"Instead of borrowing at higher interest rate, you can leverage it against your existing assets and apply for a Live your Dream credit line," Claravall said.

The most convenient offering, one only has to write a check to avail of the line. The line is good for one year and is renewable in the event that it is not used within that period.

When the facility is approved and documented, the bank will provide you with a checkbook with 50 checks. The minimum availment is P50,000 while the maximum is the available credit line balance.

The good thing about this is, interest rates will only be charged on the amount withdrawn and for the period it was used.

"You will not pay interest if you do not use your line," said Antonio Abad, assistant vice president and department head of BPI Family Savings Bank.

Although depositors with a minimum deposit already qualify for this line, other collaterals like real estate properties, club shares accredited by the bank, stock shares, investment funds with BPI Asset Management and Trust Group, and government securities are accepted.

"Depositors can already enjoy this credit line loan after 2-3 days processing," said Abad.

For other qualifying collaterals, BPI Family Savings Bank promises a turn-around-time of 2 to 3 weeks from the day the necessary requirements are submitted.

If you are still not a client of BPI Family Savings Bank, you will soon become part of it because payment and other charges will be made by automatic debit from a Deposit Settlement Account.

Live your Dream Credit Line opens your doors to other opportunities that you thought were not achievable. Sometimes, people don't see the need to do things that will be good for them.

"Even with our existing client base, most of them have enough deposit to either invest or buy something," Claravall said, "but instead of disposing of that money why not just avail of a credit line like the one we are now offering.

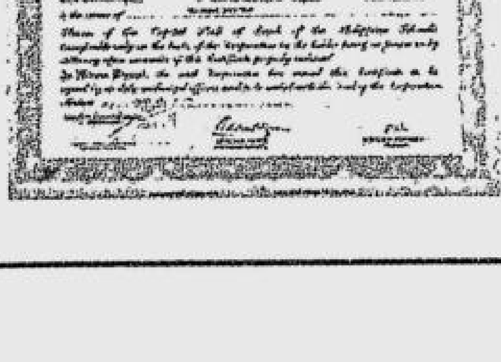
"Don't withdraw or pre-terminate a deposit account during emergencies," she added.

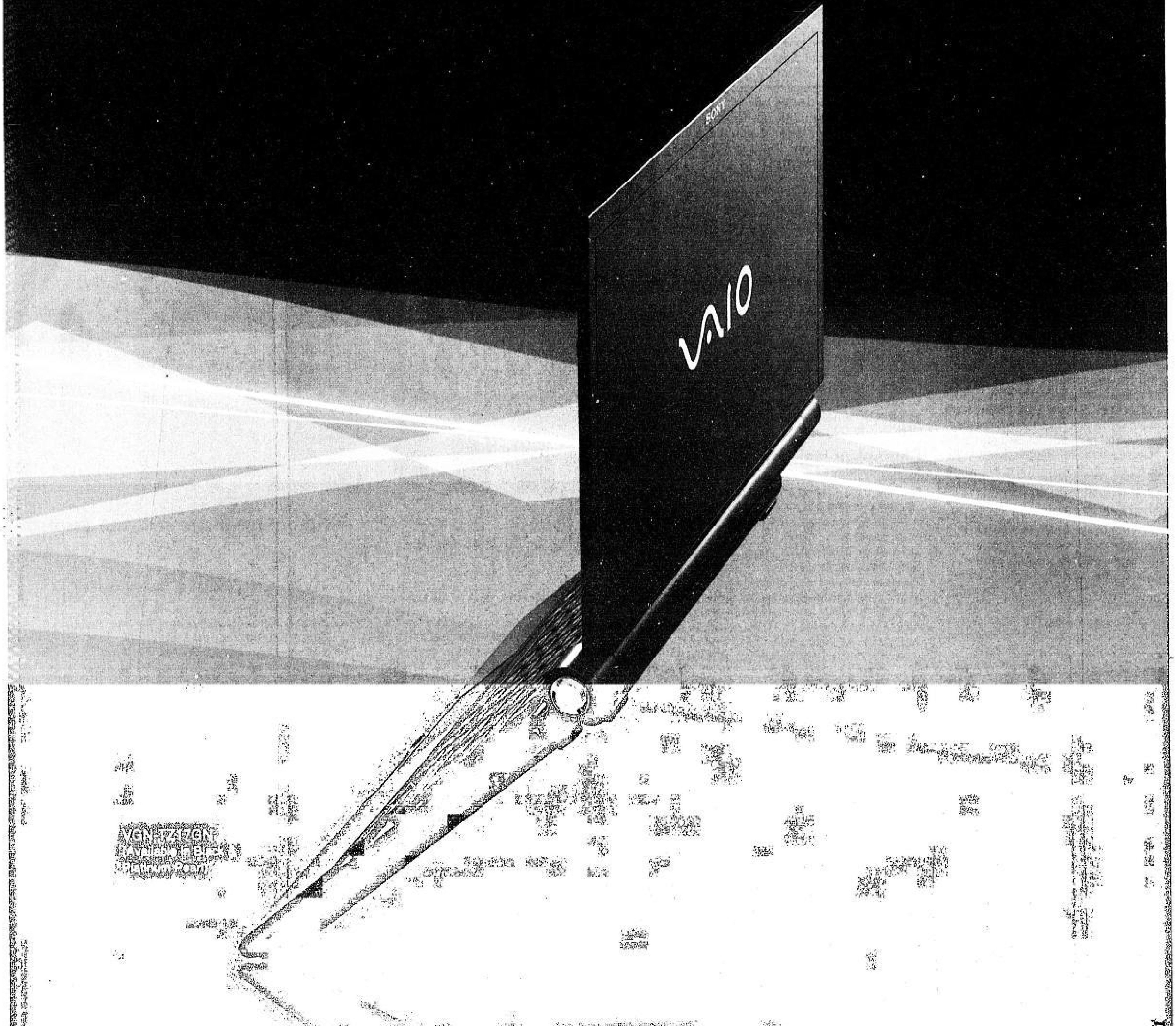
There is more end-benefit to the client than they realize, Claravall said.

"When you say multi-purpose loan, you don't see the need but when you specify the needs, you'll realize you need it."

At present, Live Your Dream is offered in Metro Manila and the major provincial cities.

TRUST PLACEMENT





SONY

Sony recommends Windows Vista® Business

intel
Centrino
Duo
Core™2 Duo
inside™

The New Essence of Elite

Introducing the VAIO TZ from Sony.
Powered by Intel® Centrino® Duo Processor Technology and
Windows Vista® Business, this advanced notebook is designed to provide
assured performance in a luxurious, ultra-light, carbon fiber body.
Packed with features for business and entertainment, it doesn't just
boast cutting-edge form and function. It is the cutting edge.
To learn more, visit www.sony.com.ph

CCC
Sony Customer Contact Center:
(02) 878-7600
info.sph@ap.sony.com
Via SMS, text Inquire<space>
your question and send to
0917-8077669

GEAR UP YOUR VAIO!
Get the best deals to enjoy a full digital life beyond computing!
Promo period: September 12 to November 15, 2007. See catalog & shop standees for more details.

VAIO
OFFICIAL
WARRANTY

Exclusively Distributed by Sony Philippines Inc. 8/F Net Square Building, 3rd Avenue cor. 28th Street, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City,
Taguig MM, 1634 PHILIPPINES

*1: VAIO TZ uses Mobile Intel® 945GMS Express Chipset.
*2: Intel, the Intel Logo, Centrino, Intel Core and Core Inside, are trademarks of Intel Corporation in the U.S. and other countries.

VAIO
no more bounds

like.no.other™

SPORTS
Website: www.inquirer.net/sports
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa
Text er sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Get ready for the rest of your life.
FOR STAYING POWER
IMMUVIT
Available in leading drugstores nationwide.

SAN BEDA'S Pong Escobal barely avoids the baseline as he drives past Mapua's Sean Co. The Lions avoided a playoff by ditching the Cardinals in the semifinals yesterday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Lions, Knights seal title clash

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAN BEDA AND LETRAN BOTH TOOK THE EXPRESSWAY TO get to the finals last night.

Showing composure and skill down the stretch, the league's top-ranked teams left their respective foes by the wayside to arrange a title showdown that last happened in the NCAA men's basketball tournament 57 years ago.

LIONS/ A30

Restore More Than Just Hair!

When you get your hair back, you get your life back. Why settle for being bald when you can get back a full head of natural, thick hair? With Svenson's **TRANSDERMAL COSMETIC RECONSTRUCTION (TCR)** you'll be sure to get an effective, non-surgical, permanent solution that will bring back the hair you've lost. Seamless, transparent and bonded to your scalp, no one will suspect you had a little "help" because it just looks natural. TCR is so secure, it won't restrict your lifestyle at all. You'll look younger, be more confident and feel more attractive. Call Svenson today for a FREE consultation.

Svenson
call 892-HAIR (4247)

MAKATI
15/F GT Tower

TOMAS MORATO
3/F CKB Center

BINONDO
11/F Federal Tower Building

ALABANG
4/F Citibank-Frabelle Building

CEBU
TEL: 234-0851
7/F Keppel Centre

Wanna Play?
SWIFT

Global Car
SWIFT

It's playtime! Go sporty. Get young. Get behind the wheels of the SUZUKI SWIFT. Take a cut away from the ordinary with its eye-catching looks, sparkling performance, nimble handling, and an upbeat interior that's as practical as it is stylish.

Drive now and have some serious fun.

2 YEARS FREE SERVICE 20,000 kms
3 YEARS WARRANTY 100,000

Subcompact Sedan of the Year

2007 EDITORS' PICKS
Subcompact of the Year

SUZUKI
Way of Life!

METRO MANILA

SUZUKI AUTO COMMONWEALTH
Prince Motor Corporation
951-2201 to 10

SUZUKI AUTO EDSA
Pithino Sales Corporation
634-3451 to 57

SUZUKI AUTO KALOOKAN
Matrix Motor Corporation
364-9093 / 365-6098
365-3011 / 365-7796

SUZUKI AUTO MANILA BAY
Wheels, Inc.
556-1486 / 556-1487

SUZUKI AUTO MAKATI
Heidelberg Motor Corporation
616-4097 / 610-1736 / 610-1737

SUZUKI AUTO QUEZON AVE.
Sunny Motors Group, Inc.
374-3911 / 411-2720

SUZUKI AUTO SHAW
The Shaw Motor
Plaza Corp.
718-1834 to 35

PROVINCIAL

SUZUKI AUTO BACOLOD
Automall Motor Sales
(034) 435-0268

SUZUKI AUTO CABANATUAN
Prince Motor Corporation
(044) 463-5248 / 463-0089

SUZUKI AUTO CEBU
Cebu Autocentrale Corp.
(032) 345-8892 / 345-8893

SUZUKI AUTO DAGUPAN
Amlanan Motors
(075) 517-1717 / 8888 / 9999

SUZUKI AUTO DAVAO
Motormall Davao Corporation
(082) 233-1140 / 234-0390

SUZUKI AUTO ILOILO
Iloilo Car Corp.
(033) 320-7020 / 508-2777

SUZUKI AUTO LAGUNA
Areza Motor Sales
(02) 520-6725
(049) 411-1079 / 411-1060

SUZUKI AUTO LEGASPI
Lisam Motors
(054) 472-3577 to 79 / 472-3659

SUZUKI AUTO PAMPANGA
Family Cars, Inc.
(045) 860-5971 / 961-3573

SUZUKI AUTO ZAMBOANGA
Arcel Marketing, Inc.
(062) 991-1492 / 991-1126

www.suzuki.com.ph

Fernandos fire 68s, share RP Am elims lead

ILOILO—COUSINS AND NATIONAL teammates Anthony and Mark Fernando shot two-under par 68s to tie Paul Echavez for the lead yesterday at the start of the 36-hole stroke play qualifier of the 2007 Philippine Amateur championship at the Iloilo Golf and Country Club here.

Mark Fernando, the Cangolf bet who shared top honors with Ferdie Aunzo in the recent RP team elims, gunned down six birdies against four bogeys in a 33-35 card under ideal playing condition at the par-70 layout.

Anthony Fernando, 24, nailed four birdies against two bogeys while Echavez canned five birdies, including a 24-footer on No. 3.

Mike Bibat, bronze medalist in last year's Asian Games who clinched the sixth and last berth in the national team, assembled a 69 for fourth while defending champion and national team spearhead Jay Bayron carded a 71 for a share of fifth with Erwin Vinluan.

Jhonnel Ababa and Aunzo groped for form and struggled with a 73 and 76, respectively, although they remain in the hunt for berths in the match play phase of this event conducted by the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

Daniel Sinfuego shot a 72 for joint seventh with Joseph Labajo, Tonton Asistio and Joey Huerva while Rufino Bayron, Dante Becierra and Gene Bondoc joined Ababa in 11th place.

Meanwhile, Carmelette Villaroman sputtered with a 78 to fall four strokes behind Anya Tanpinco, who led the charge of the national bets sponsored by ICSTI in the ladies side with a 74.

Chihiro Ikeda had a 77 for second while Sunshine Baraquiel, a Southwoods' bet like Villaroman, shot a 79. Louise Manalo and Lora Roberto made 81 and 83, respectively.

Earlier, Iloilo Golf and Country Club president Frankie Locsin, IGCC vice president Mark Rivera and NGAP sec-gen Jun Galindez hit the ceremonial drives kicking off the five-day event held in conjunction with the centennial celebration of the IGCC.

The top 32 players in the men's division and the top 16 in the women's side after the 36-hole stroke play elims will advance to the match play phase of the event sponsored by San Miguel Corp., Pepsi Cola, Generali Filipinas and the Philippine Sports Commission.

ANTHONY Fernando (left): Hot start

ROMY HOMILLADA

Chinese bets top picks in Asian chess

By Roy Luarca

WORLD-RANKED BETS FROM CHINA and India are picked to tangle for top honors when the sixth Asian Individual Chess Championship begins on Sept. 19 at the Cebu International Convention Center.

The Chinese, who recently humbled the mighty Russians in a dual meet, and the Indians will be fielding in 13 players each for the 11-round tournament staking a total pot of $40,000 (about P1.8 million).

Super GMs Nia Hua (Elo 2681) and Zhang Pengxiang (Elo 2649) will banner the power-packed Chinese contingent which landed second behind Armenia in the 2006 Turin Chess Olympiad.

India will be led by GMs Surya Shekhar Ganguly (Elo 2586), Chanda Sandipan (Elo 2563) and Abhijit Kunte (Elo 2519) in the event to be hosted by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines under former Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay and Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino.

"In terms of foreign participation, this is certainly the biggest chess competition to be held in the country since the 1992 World Chess Olympiad in Manila," said Pichay, who lauded the Cebu City government's all-out support through Gov. Gwen Garcia.

GMs Eugene Torre and Rogelio Antonio Jr. and 13-year-old IM Wesley So will spearhead the local challenge in the tournament which will run up to Sept. 30.

Also joining are Chinese GMs Wang Hao (Elo 2624), Zhou Jiangchao (Elo 2572) and Zhao Jun (Elo 2558); Indonesian GMs Utut Adianto (Elo 2583) and Susanto Megaranto (Elo 2551); Vietnamese GMs Nguyen Anh Dung (Elo 2537) and Tu Hong Thong (Elo 2483); and Bangladeshi GMs Niaz Murshad (Elo 2438) and Enamul Hossain (Elo 2485).

Singaporean GM Wu Shaobin (Elo 2449) is also among the 51 foreign players who are chasing 10 slots for the Fide-organized World Cup scheduled in Kalmykia later this year.

Pichay, who also organized the first Gloria Macapagal Arroyo Cup chess championship and the first RP Open International Challenge, said the tournaments are part of the NCFP's continuing efforts for the country to regain respect in the international scene.

For inquiries, call Tolentino or NCFP director Willie Abalos at 5368507 or e-mail the NCFPsecretariat@yahoo.com.

Scotch Doubles 10-ball event starts Sept. 19

THE PAIR OF JHAROME PEÑA and Jundel Mazon vows to put up a good fight in the first San Miguel Corporation Scotch Doubles 10-ball event slated Sept. 19-21 at the Metrowalk in Pasig City.

The two rising players are dark horses in the tournament which will award P140,000 to the winning tandem.

Tagged as favorites are double world champion Ronnie Alcano, Dennis Orcollo and Lee Vann (Corteza), who placed second in the Guinness Tour finals held recently in Bali, Indonesia.

"*Pero sisiguraduhin ko kung sino man ang maging kakampi ko ay ibibigay ko lahat, ang puso ko at determinasyon na manalo* (But I will make sure that whoever I play with, I will give my best and full determination in order to win)," said Peña, runner-up in the 2007 Battle of Scandinavia 9-Ball Open in Oslo, Norway.

Mazon, the 2006 Kuwait 9-ball Open champion and top player of Conrado Poblete's Bronco stable, also said he's ready to slug it out with the favorites.

Peña, a member of the star-laden Bugsy Promotions, and Mazon are also preparing for the grand finals of the SMB RP 9-Ball Open on Sept. 14-16.

For details, call tournament director Jojo Santos at 09157008000, Valle at 09169589897 and Peña at 09183942779. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE
Pasay City

INVITATION TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all G-EPS registered bidders/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid on the following CY2008 service contracts and Other Items

	DESCRIPTION	QTY.	PROJECT ALLOCATION	NON-REFUNDABLE FEE
1	Subscription to Local/International Newspapers & Magazines			Php 200 00
2	Subscription to Local/International Journals & Reviews		Php 180,000/year	Php 200.00
3.	Corporate Health Program		Php 15 500,000/year	Php 500 00
4	Internet Subscription	Lot	Php 1,260,000/year	Php 500 00
5.	Supply of Gasoline	Lot	Per consumption	Php 200.00
6.	Supply of Fast-moving items, preventive maint. spareparts & accessories	Lot	Per consumption	Php 200.00
7.	Rental of 62 units Photocopying Machines	Lot	Php 5,000,000/year	Php 500.00
8.	Supply of labor, materials, equipment, chemicals of various types, & Other concomitant items for Total Quality Pest Control	Lot	Php 180,000/year	Php 200.00
9.	Rental of Nine (9) units Drinking Fountains	Lot	Php 200,000/year	Php 200.00
10.	Supply of labor, materials, tools, equipment & supervision of Cooling Towers Water Treatment Program for 3-360TR cooling towers	Lot	Php 250,000/year	Php 200.00
11	Canteen Concession & Catering Services		Per consumption	Php 200.00
12	General Housekeeping & Other Related Services	Lot	Php 15,883,182.42/year	Php 500.00
13	Hauling & Disposal of Garbage	Lot	Php 168,000/year	Php 200 00
14	Supply of Flowers		Php 399,302 40/year	Php 200.00
15	Supply of Shuttle Bus Service consisting of three (3) buses	Lot	Php 1,800,000/year	Php 500 00
16	Supply of labor, materials, tools, equipment & supervision for the Preventive Maintenance of 3-360TR York Chillers	Lot	Php 350,000/year	Php 200.00
17.	Hardware Maintenance of Computers & Peripherals	Lot	Php	
18	Subscription to Cable TV	Lot	Php 680,400/year	Php 200.00
19	Purchase of Mailfrontier/Sonicwall Email Security for 200 mailboxes	200 License	Php 375,000	Php 200.00
20.	Renewal of Symantec Antivirus Corporate Ed. for Workstations & Network Servers (200 license) Additional license of Symantec Antivirus Corporate Ed. for Workstations & Network Servers (100 license). Symantec Antivirus Corporate Edition 10 1 media pack (1 disc)	Lot	Php 302,600	Php 200.00
21.	Purchase of Hi-definition DV camcorder & Standalone 1 to 3 DVD Duplicator System with LCD Display	Lot	Php 530,000	Php 200.00
22	Supply & Installation of Walk - Through Detector	Lot	Php 500,000	Php 200 00

The bidding documents shall be available to interested bidders/suppliers at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm 401, 4/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City from **1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., starting September 13, 2007** upon payment of non-refundable fee as indicated above. **A bid bulletin on the schedule of pre-bidding conferences and submission/opening of bids will be sent through fax**

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R A 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act Bids received in excess of the Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) shall be automatically rejected at bid opening. **LATE BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED. ALTERNATIVE BIDS SHALL BE REJECTED**

This Invitation is also advertised with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) and posted at the 3rd and 4th Floor Senate bulletin boards.

For inquiry, please call the BAC Secretariat Office at telefax no 552-6601 local 1602 (c/o Rose de Castro).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO 1) REVIEW ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS; 2) REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS; 3) CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD A BIDDER BE FOUND TO HAVE VIOLATED R.A. 9184; 4) WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN; and/or 5) ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT. ANY DECISION MADE BY THE SENATE IS FINAL AND EXECUTORY.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER OR WINNING BIDDER, AS THE CASE MAY BE, FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT SAID PARTY(IES) MAY INCUR IN ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE PRE-BIDDING AND BIDDING PROCESS NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd) ATTY. DAVID JONATHAN V. YAP
Vice-Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept 13, 2007)

Benito rules Cebu karting leg

RISING YOUNG KARTER ROBY Benito of Tuason Racing-Ready2Race Team finally hogged the limelight recently in the Cebu leg of the National Karting Series at the Kartzone in Mabolo, Cebu City.

It was the 12-year-old Benito's first victory after consistently finishing runner-up in the first four legs.

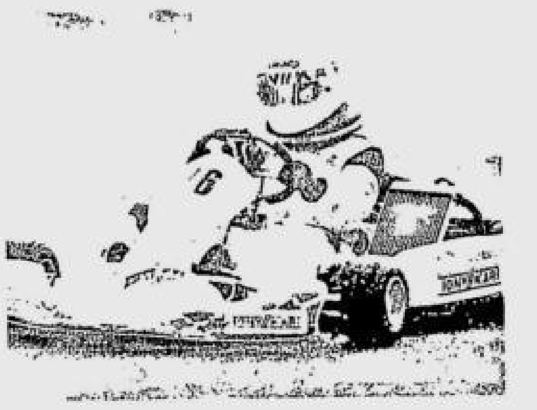
Showing intensity and determination right from the start, Benito stunned pacesetter Javi Benitez and top Cebuano bet Patrick Gandionco to claim the ROK Juniors title for Tuason Racing-R2R Team.

Benito wrapped up the 22-lap Pre-Final race in 9 minutes and 30.463 seconds, 2.516 seconds ahead of Patrick Gandionco and 3.997 seconds ahead of Vencer John Suba.

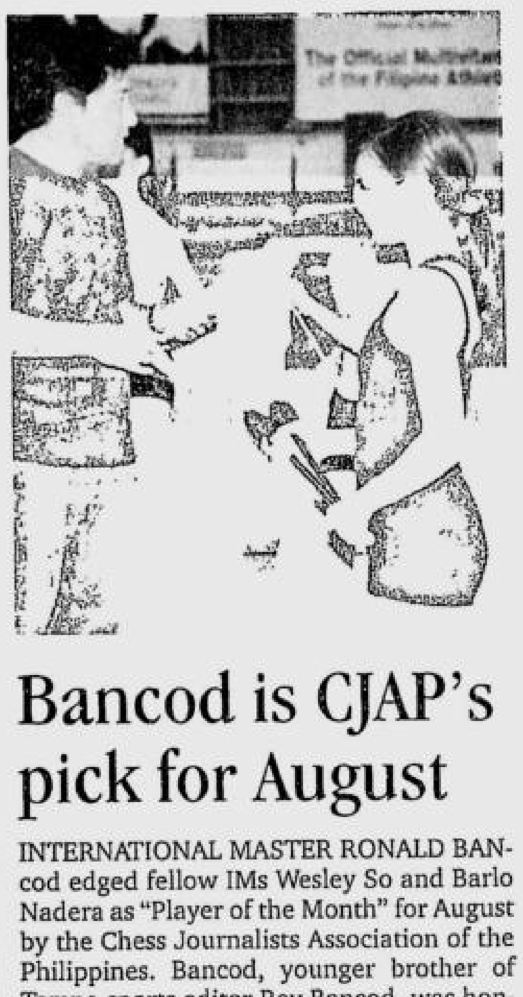
Benito also posted the fastest lap of 25.803 seconds on the seventh lap. As soon as the Pre-Final race started, Benito drew attention when he moved from third on the grid to second after overtaking Juha Turalba at the second turn.

Benito led from the third turn of the 12th lap.

A heavy downpour forced officials to cancel the final heat and declare the Pre-Final race result as the basis for the winners.



ROBY Benito of Tuason Racing R2R finally claims victory in the Cebu leg of the National Karting Series at the Kartzone in Mabolo, Cebu City.



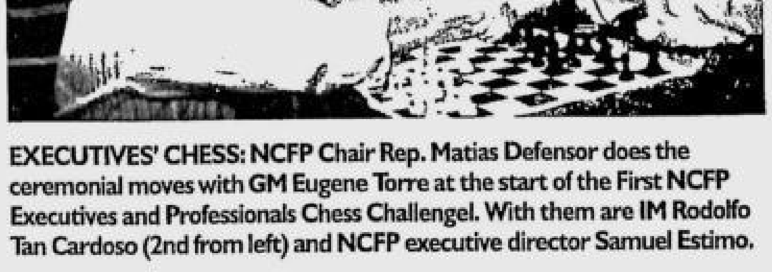
GYMASTICS SUPPORTER: The Quezon City Government under Mayor Sonny Belmonte has agreed to support the Gymnastics Association of the Philippines as part of its sports development program. To affirm the city's commitment, Councilor Ariel Inton of District IV inspects the training of the gymnasts at the GAP headquarters.

Fessap national tournament up

THE FEDERATION OF SCHOOL SPORTS ASSOciation of the Philippines (Fessap) will be hosting the school-based National Championship to be held in Metro Manila from Nov. 23-30. The competition will have 14 events, including marathon and cycling. Also on tap are karatedo, baseball, archery, bodybuilding, taekwondo, basketball, muay thai, volleyball and table tennis. Fessap chair former Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay was sworn into office by Basketball Association of the Philippines chair Rep. Luis Villafuerte of Camarines Sur. Also gracing the occasion were Fessap president Tisha Abundo, BAP EVP Christian Tan, Prof. Robert Milton Calo and Lorenzo Sy.

Bancod is CJAP's pick for August

INTERNATIONAL MASTER RONALD BANcod edged fellow IMs Wesley So and Barlo Nadera as "Player of the Month" for August by the Chess Journalists Association of the Philippines. Bancod, younger brother of Tempo sports editor Rey Bancod, was honored for topping the RP Asian Indoor Games qualifying tilt held last Aug. 1-4 in Tagaytay City and steering Team Apocalypse-Manila to the title in the 27th Merdeka Open chess team championship. So, the best player awardee for March and May, was cited for winning the gold medal in the recent World Youth Under-16 Olympiad.



EXECUTIVES' CHESS: NCFP Chair Rep. Matias Defensor does the ceremonial moves with GM Eugene Torre at the start of the First NCFP Executives and Professionals Chess Challengel. With them are IM Rodolfo Tan Cardoso (2nd from left) and NCFP executive director Samuel Estimo.

Chandler powers Koreans anew; Alaska signs Bono

By June Navarro and Musong R. Castillo

IT SEEMS THAT NO ONE CAN STOP Marquin Chandler from demolishing every PBA team that gets in KT&G's way.

The former Purefoods import teamed up with Hee Jong Yang and made a mockery of the San Miguel Beer defense as the Koreans pulled off a 127-100 rout last night in the 2007-2008 PBA Preseason Games at The Arena in San Juan.

After tearing Welcoat and Alaska apart, Chandler didn't spare San Miguel from his wrath by combining for 38 points with Yang, most of them unloaded when the Beermen were about to storm back from double-digit deficits.

By the time Chandler was almost done pulling the trigger, the Koreans were already far ahead, 106-81, on the way to their third straight victory in the event serving as a tune-up for the PBA teams.

The Koreans opened the latter half with back-to-back triples and with a couple of unchallenged incursions from Chandler and Yang, the guest team moved ahead, 70-58, entering the fourth.

Getting a shot in the arm from Ildefonso and Fonacier, the Beermen came charging back to cut the deficit by seven but allowed the Koreans to rack up 11 straight points that sent San Miguel's efforts to down the drain.

Meanwhile, Ken Bono, the sixth overall pick in the Rookie draft and a potential PBA superstar, finally came to terms with Alaska yesterday for a three-year contract worth around P7.3 million.

BONO PDI PHOTO

The signing was expected to take place either after practice yesterday or early today, with player-agent Edgar Tan saying that Bono "was happy to finally be with Alaska, the monetary considerations (of the contract) are secondary."

Bono, the 6-foot-5 former Adamson ace who won the UAAP MVP last season when he led the Falcons to the Final Four for the first time in years, will get the maximum of P150,000 a month in his rookie season.

His pay will then escalate to P200,000 a month next year before reaching P250,000 in the third.

The compensation package is not what many expected for one teeming with so much potential, but Bono accepted the deal wholeheartedly.

The scores:

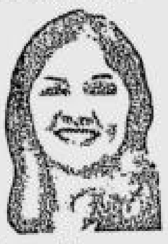
KT&G 127—Chandler 19, Yang 19, Eun 13, Lee 13, Shin 12, Cummings 11, Hwang 9, Yoon 8, Joo 8, Kim 5, Park 5, Jeon 3, Kim 2.

SMB 100—Villanueva 19, Eman 14, Fonacier 13, Espinas 13, Ildefonso 12, Hontiveros 9, Tenorio 7, Wesley 5, Calagulo 4, Racela 2, Wilson 2, J. Villanueva 0.

Quarters: 31-23, 60-50, 96-72, 127-100

A TV sitcom awaits Manny after Barrera

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

SINCE THE Pacquiao-Barrera fight was only a few weeks away, I thought that the press conference called by GMA-7 last weekend was going to be about the Oct. 7 event.

Well we did talk about the fight, but the real purpose of the presscon was to announce the contract-signing between Manny and the network, making him a Kapuso talent. GMA executives said they will produce a show for the boxing icon—either a sitcom or a reality series—but everything was still on the drawing board at the moment.

Manny himself couldn't answer queries from the sports and show biz scribes who wanted to know what kind of a program his producers had in mind and with whom he was going to co-star. Was it Ara Mina?

A few days later, the papers said that Manny was going to star in a sitcom with Rufa Mae Quinto as his partner. His producers promised this will not disrupt the schedule of his training. Taping of the sitcom will start only after the Las Vegas fight.

Speaking of Manny's Cebu training, his main complaint was the weather. The heat, he said, was almost unbearable, adding it took so much energy out of him.

***

Only when he returns from Las Vegas will shooting of the film where he co-stars with Ara Mina be resumed.

According to show biz scribes who attended the presscon, the movie will be one of the entries in the Manila Film Festival this December.

Asked to comment on his kissing scene with Ara Mina, Manny responded with a shy grin.

***

Yesterday morning the entire Filipino nation watched and held its breath as the Sandiganbayan handed down its verdict on the 6-year-old plunder case filed against former president Joseph Estrada.

Here are some of the reactions we got from prominent basketball personalities after Erap was pronounced guilty of plunder.

A number of respondents have requested anonymity.

PBA governor: "Don't you think we might be getting out of line here? From sports to politics. It's not safe to comment because of the ongoing court cases versus high government officials."

PBL team owner: "Sorry I can't comment on this because the sons of both GMA (President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo) and Erap are my *compadres*."

Patrick Gregorio, SBP executive director: "Unlike in a basketball game where there's a winner and a loser, in the Estrada trial, *walang dapat mag-isip na may nanalo at natalo. Wala na ang kantiyawan*. Let's pray for a peaceful Philippines."

PBA governor: "Verdict was half expected. The crime of plunder is a crime against the Filipino people. In other words, it's large-scale corruption. This is a cleansing process that tells us that no man is above the law. Erap, the champion of the *masa*, after all was said and done, has failed them. I expect that the confidence of our investors in our economy will improve. Kaya deals like ZTE, whoever is behind it, beware! Needless to say, I agree with the verdict."

Gary David, PBA player: "*Medyo* unfair *yung* verdict, *kasi* not guilty *yung iba tapos si* Erap guilty. *Dapat* not guilty *na lahat*."

Derick Pumaren, PBA coach: I just hope no untoward incident will happen so we can move on. If something adverse happens, then investors will have second thoughts putting their money here."

VISAYAS POF

Capiz bets capture six golds

By June Navarro

ILOILO CITY—RUNNERS DON'T need a state-of-the-art track to prime themselves up for a big event.

Five Capiz tracksters proved this with gold-winning performances at the start of the 2nd Philippine Olympic Festival Visayas qualifying leg yesterday at the rain-soaked Iloilo Sports Complex here.

Jenelyn Progio pulled off a sprints-hurdles double in the girls' division to spark a six-gold effort by Capiz for the day in athletics. Meynaldo Eduque topped the men's 5,000 meters, Joannu Fegarido ruled the boys' 100 meters, and Hanny Jean Delfin won the girls' 3,000 meters.

Capping the splurge was the victory of Jean Felito in the girls' discus throw.

"We're forced to train on a dirt road because our track oval was being renovated before we came here," said Capiz track and field coach Fritz Dorado in Filipino. "Worse, I only had two weeks to put up a team and train them."

Progio clocked 13.435 seconds in the century dash in nosing out Bacolod City Jami Dawn Henares (13.436). Stephani Alasa of Iloilo settled for the bronze in 13.9 seconds.

Eduque, 19, prevailed in the men's 5,000 in 17:28.5 while Delfin won the girls' 3,000 in 11:05.

"It's probably all mental (dirt-road training)—the goal is to win and I trained hard to achieve this," said Eduque.

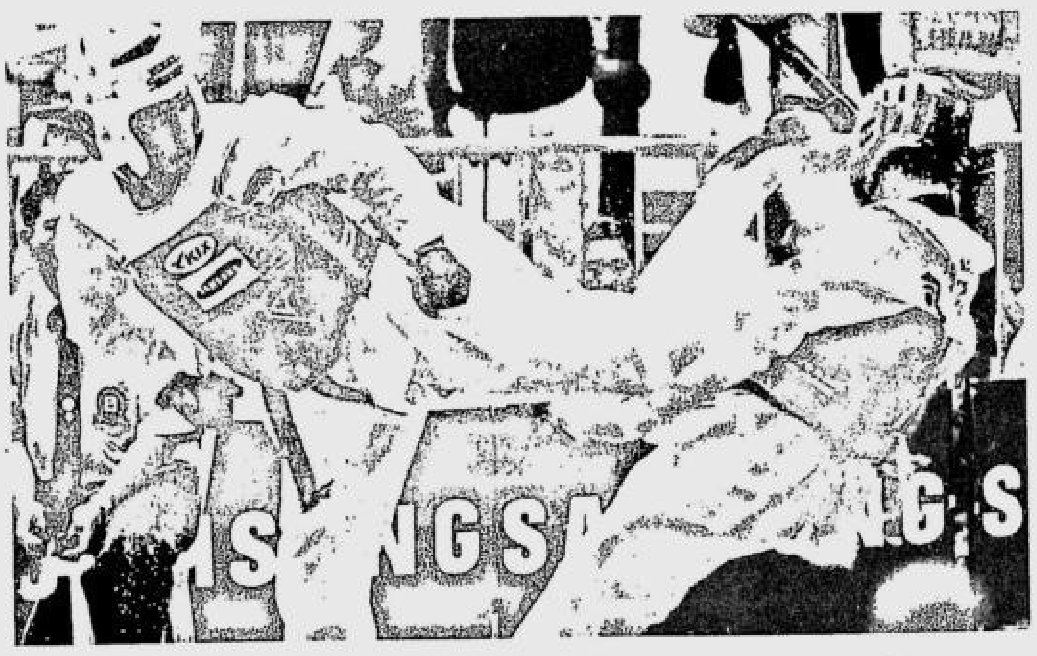
JENELYN Progio (right) breezes her way to one of Capiz's gold medals—the 100-meter girls hurdles—during athletics competitons of the Philippine Olympic Festival at the Iloilo Sports Complex. RAFFY LERMA

The host province salvaged some measure of pride after Josie Malacad and Gerver Obillos reigned supreme in the 800 meters.

Malacad finished the girls' 800m in 2:29.0 while Orbillos clocked 2:09 in topping the boys' 800.

In football, Negros Occidental opened its championship bid by upsetting Iloilo City, 4-1.

The event was opened by Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas during a ceremony graced by POF and Philippine Olympic Committee chair Robert Aventajado and POC president Jose Cojuangco Jr., among others. The event is backed by Globe, Accel, Asia Brewery, Ama Computer, Negros Navigation and Creativity Lounge.



ALLAN OBENZA (left) of the College of St. Benilde scores on a back kick against Sherwin Alanza of Philippine Christian University during their men's finweight division match in the National Taekwondo Championship at the Glorietta Activity Center. ROMY HOMILLADA

Top taekwondo bets hurdle foes

By Romina S. Austria

TWO NATIONAL TEAM STANDOUTS and other top seeds outclassed their respective challengers yesterday to advance to the men's semifinals of the 2007 Samsung Best of the Best National Taekwondo Championships at the Glorietta Activity Center.

RP team mainstay and light welterweight top seed Ernesto Juan Mendoza overpowered Baguio's Austin Abuda, 6-0 (4-0, 0-0, 2-0), in the quarterfinals while fellow National Manuel Rivero won by default over Ronnel de Guzman of Malolos City in the featherweight division.

Mendoza awaits the winner of the quarterfinal match between Philippine Christian University's Brian Joseph Dizon and Paulo Angelo Ong of University of Santo Tomas, which has topped taekwondo in the UAAP for the past five years.

Rivero will take on San Beda's Loreto Vasquez Jr., a 1-0 winner over Davao's Roberto Pingca Jr. Top seed Christian Angara of Baguio meets La Salle's Dennis Resaba in the other featherweight semis pairing.

Baguio qualified after turning back ninth seed Allan Obenza of St. Benilde, the 2006-2007 NCAA gold medalist, while Resaba ousted Baguio's Bonifacio Genove Jr.

Another top seed, St. Benilde's Edison Bagaipo, made it to the final four of the finweight category after stopping Davao's Irvin Carlos, 8-4 (1-1, 3-1, 4-2), and arranged a semis encounter with Raffy Futolan of Defenders, who bested PCU's Mark Jazmin, 2-0.

The other final slot will be disputed by Davao's Ryan Tibay, a 6-4 winner over Region II's Francisco Tumaliuan, and St. Benilde's Paolo Miguel Angeles, who defeated Raymond Villada of Defenders, 5-2.

Bantamweight No. 1 Kim John Borlongan of Far Eastern University takes on Emmanuel Alivio Jr. of UST. San Beda's Jose Emmanuel Enriquez and Davao's Arturo Lalican Jr. square off in the other game.

In the middle heavy division, UST's Jose Anthony Soriano will meet San Pablo City's Cyrus Anthony Tolosa. St. Benilde's Clarence Virtuzado's semis foe will either be University of the Philippines Manila's Igor Ducay or UST's Arvie Antonio.

Two more men's semifinals will be played today followed by women's matches, which were rescheduled because of time constraints.

Samsung officials, Philippine Taekwondo Association vice president Grandmaster Sung Chon Hong and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay graced the event which attracted more than 400 jins, all winners of previous taekwondo competitions.

1,500 jins join inter-school tilt

CLOSE TO 1,500 ATHLETES ARE EXPECTED TO SEE ACTION IN THE 2007 Petron/Smart national inter-school taekwondo championships on September 15-16 at the Rizal Memorial coliseum. Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado says around 500 schools nationwide affiliated with PTA will compete in eight divisions—seniors (men and women), juniors (men and women), mid-juniors (men and women), and gradeschool (boys and girls). According to organizing committee chair Sung Chon Hong, the tourney is part of PTA's grassroots program. Among the schools that have signified their participation in the two-day tourney are De La Salle University-Taft, Zobel, Lipa and Dasmariñas, UP, UST, Ateneo, FEU, UE and San Beda College.

Northwoods, Eastridge gain 'Fed' semis

ROYAL NORTHWOODS OF BULACAN AND Eastridge of Rizal posted contrasting wins over the weekend to barge into the semifinals of the Federation Golf League in various venues.

Northwoods dominated Valley of Antipolo, 8-3, while Eastridge went through a two-hole playoff before edging Canlubang in the quarterfinals.

Canlubang saw a shocking end to its bid when the Laguna squad lost the second playoff hole of a scramble format due to a rule infraction as Mulsy Regala stayed on the line of putt of his partner Felix Yulo.

The Canlubang aces had earlier fought back from a 1-4 deficit they suffered from an away game at Eastridge with their own 4-1 victory at home to force the extension.

Eastridge now faces two-time champion Forest Hills while Northwoods battles Alabang in the Final Four of the tourney sponsored by Immuvit/Pascual Laboratories, Titleist/Dynamic Sports and Spa 6750.

MLTC, Acropolis lead tennis tilt

MANDALUYONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB (MLTC)–Mizuno and newcomer Acropolis Tennis Club–Sta. Lucia won their two respective assignments last weekend to take an early lead in the 3rd BABOLAT Home & Away Interclub Team Tennis.

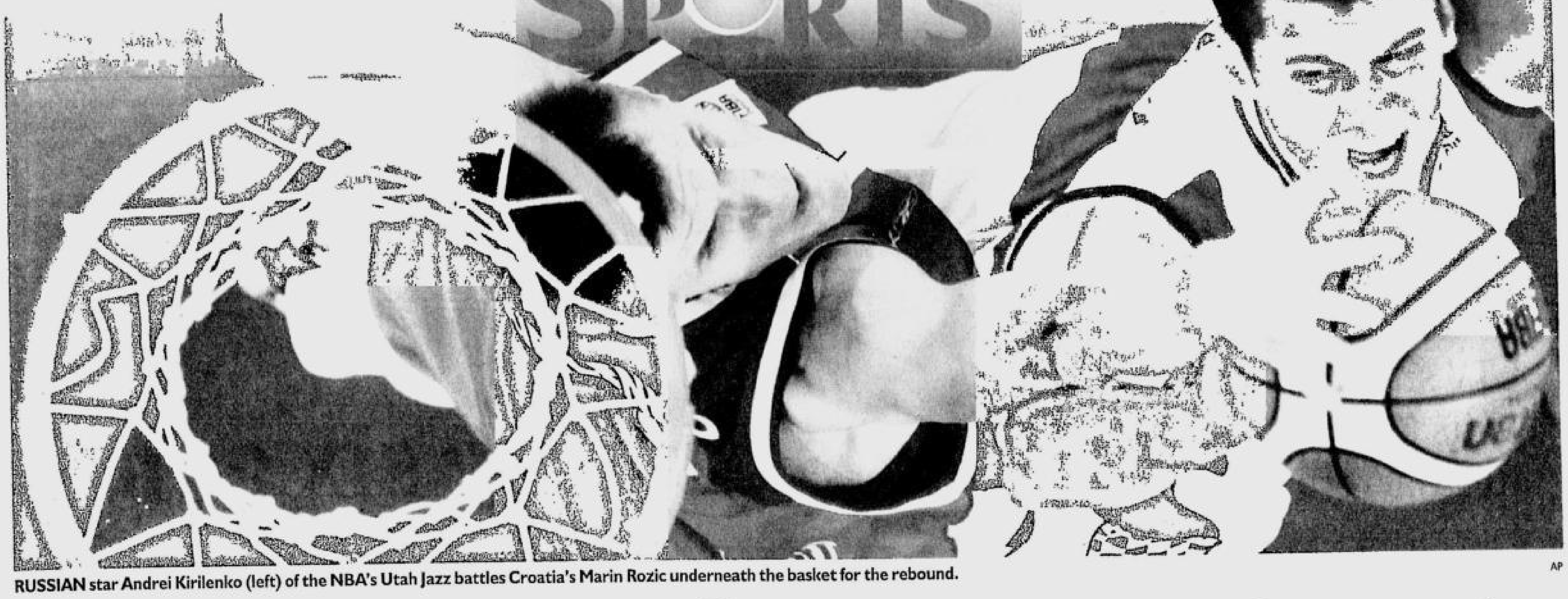
Acropolis, led by Manny Capulong and Noel Polero, made an impressive debut in the Home & Away event in its own turf, defeating the PCA team, 5-2, on Saturday then followed it up with another 5-2 win over Celebrity on Sunday.

MLTC, on the other hand, won its first game at home against Celebrity 5-2, and picked up its second win at the expense of MTC, 5-2.

Meanwhile, Philippine Columbian Association banked on Hanky Lee and Randy Male to demolish Valle Verde, 7-0, at the PCA courts. Valle Verde had earlier posted a 5-2 win over MTC on Saturday.

Matches continue on Saturday and Sunday.

SPORTS



RUSSIAN star Andrei Kirilenko (left) of the NBA's Utah Jazz battles Croatia's Marin Rozic underneath the basket for the rebound.

AP

Warriors go for sweep

AS RARE AND SPECIAL AS A 14-0 SWEEP MAY BE, THE University of the East Warriors refuse to sound off any thoughts on reaching the brink of a historical moment.

Perhaps it's the Warriors' way of taking their mind off the pressure. Or for coach Dindo Pumaren, maybe it's his way of ignoring the uncomfortable thought that it's his older brother who might give him the heartache.

Yet if UE completes an elimination-round sweep against Franz Pumaren's La Salle Green Archers today, the Warriors will barge into the Finals of the UAAP men's basketball competition.

The Warriors' bid for a perfect regular season record will start at 4 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

It's a feat last accomplished 14 years ago by University of Santo Tomas, which automatically claimed then the 1993 championship behind Dennis Espino, Bal David, Rey Evangelista, Edmund Reyes, Siot Tanquincen, Patrick Fran, Udoy Belmonte and Chris Cantonjos.

"I know everyone's thinking that we're feeling the pressure," said Dindo. "But I think both teams are feeling it. Or maybe La Salle is facing more pressure, because at the very least, we're assured of the top spot in the Final Four."

And Dindo is right. A La Salle loss today would bring the Archers down to third place behind their rival Ateneo.

"The guys have been in this situation," Franz said confidently. "We're used to this."

Also breathing down La Salle's neck are the UST Tigers, who will try to complete the Final Four cast against the Far Eastern Tamaraws at 2 p.m.

A victory by the Tamaraws, who stunned the Tigers, 81-66, in the first round, will seal a playoff for the last semifinal spot. If UE sweeps, the rest of the semifinalists will have to slug it out for the remaining Finals berth.

The third and fourth seeds will battle in a knockout match for the right to play the No. 2 squad, which owns a twice-to-beat advantage.

"We're not looking too far ahead," said Dindo. "Right now we're just focusing on getting win No. 14. We're preparing for La Salle's half-court offense. We know they're motivated especially after losing to Ateneo."

La Salle absorbed another stunning loss to Ateneo, 89-87, last Sunday that brought the two fierce rivals to a share of second place at 9-4.

"I think we've grown," said Franz, whose Archers got dismantled by the Warriors, 96-76, in the first round. "It's just a matter of playing on a consistent basis."

Jasmine W. Payo

THE STAKES ARE higher this time around: La Salle big man Rico Maierhofer (left) and the rest of the Green Archers will try to avert a historic 14-0 sweep by Hans Thiele and the UE Red Warriors.

RYAN LIM

STANDINGS	W	L
UE	13	0
Ateneo	9	4
La Salle	9	4
UST	8	5
FEU	7	6
NU	5	8
Adamson	1	12
NU	0	13

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
2 p.m.—UST vs FEU
4 p.m.—La Salle vs UE

Greece rips Portugal, nails slot in quarters

MADRID, SPAIN—GREECE CLINCHED ITS place in the quarterfinals of the European Basketball Championship Tuesday with an 85-67 win over Portugal, while Croatia advanced despite an 83-70 loss to Russia.

Jorge Garbajosa led Spain's 3-point shooting, rallying it from a 13-point first-half deficit to a 99-73 victory over Israel and finishing it atop Group E.

"We reacted very well, raised our intensity and finally came back, but it wasn't easy," the Toronto Raptors forward said.

Spain will next face the winner of Wednesday's Italy-Germany game in the knockout stages on Thursday, while Russia, which finished runner-up in Group E, will play France.

Croatia will get the winner between Lithuania and Slovenia, the tournament's two remaining unbeaten teams on Friday, while defending champion Greece will play the loser.

Spain took control midway through the third quarter when Garbajosa converted his second straight 3-pointer—he finished 4-of-7 for 12 points—that turned a 57-56 deficit into a 64-57 lead.

Pau Gasol led the world champions with 26 points while Jose Calderon had 15, including a couple of 3-pointers.

"This was good news because it was important that we stayed relaxed on the court and we never panicked," Spain coach Pepu Hernandez said.

Andrei Kirilenko scored 20 points as the Russians, who led by only four points after three quarters, stretched their lead to nine early in the fourth after a 3-pointer from Zakhar Pashutin and a layup by Kirilenko.

"We woke up and played a beautiful second half," Russia coach David Blatt said. "We probably have no chance (against France) but we'll go out there to win."

Blatt said the key to stopping France was thwarting Parker.

AP

Olympians shoot down Hawks, bag crown

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SEASON AFTER SEASON, TITLE AFTER title blew past STI in a blur. Yesterday, against the most storied varsity franchise in its playground, the Olympians finally forced the parade of trophies to stop right in their campus.

STI ended five title-less years, beating five-time champion University of Manila, 81-75, in Game Two of the best-of-three finals yesterday to capture the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) men's basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

"This is a memorable year for us (Olympians)," said STI coach Vic Ycasiano. "Winning the title is really a big achievement for the team."

Prior to finally winning the title, STI's best finishes came as runners-up to UM and archrival AMA University.

Ycasiano and team manager Arnel de Leon beefed up the team by adding three prized recruits this year but in the end, fittingly, STI went to veteran Dexter Micutuan to dispose of the Hawks.

Micutuan poured nine of his game-high 22 points in the final two minutes as the Olympians finished off the Hawks with a furious 11-2 windup. His performance gave STI two trophies to celebrate. Aside from the championship trophy, Micutuan was voted Most Valuable Player of the season.

Micutuan's nine-point explosion came after Russel Assuncion nailed a twinner to give UM a 72-70 lead with still 2:13 remaining.

"He (Micutuan) stepped up big when we needed him most," said Ycasiano. "*Wala na akong mahihiling pa* (There's nothing more I can ask of him)."

Micutuan and Frank Bonus led the Mythical Team, along with Ramon Mabayo of STI, Onofre Napiza of UM and Jerome Ceita of San Sebastian College-Cavite.

It was the first time that UM lost a best-of-three title series since the league's inception in 2001.

The scores:

STI 81—Micutuan 22, Cabangon 12, Mabayo 11, Flor 11, Porto 8, Uan 8, Mendoza 3, Tiongco 2, Tolentino 2, Balneg 0.

UM 75—Bonus 21, Delos trinos 16, Malinao 10, Assuncion 10, Napiza 7, Paguio 6, Guimpatan 4, Facun 0, Sadsad 0, Mulawin 0, Lacap 0.

Quarters: 23-18, 39-29, 58-47, 81-75

Argentina nears Rugby World Cup last 8

LYON, FRANCE—LUCAS BORGES scored two tries Tuesday and Argentina beat Georgia 33-3 to edge closer to the Rugby World Cup quarterfinals.

Having shocked host France 17-12 in the opening game, the Pumas were expected to overwhelm semiprofessional Georgia at the Stade Gerland. But Argentina met strong Georgian tacklers and had to wait until the second half before it scored its first try.

Having led 6-3 at halftime after two penalties by Felipe Contepomi to one by Merab Kvirikashvili, Argentina crossed the line through Borges in the 46th minute.

The winger went over again in the 55th and lock Patricio Albacete also scored a try in the 71st.

Winger Federico Martin Aramburu went over in the 79th to capture a bonus point for a four-try performance.

Contepomi kicked three penalties and a conversion, and Argentina now has nine points from its two games to lead the Group D standings. Ireland is second with five points and France has one, but both have played a game less.

AP

CHEER FACTOR: Perpetual Help dancers perform their winning routine during the recent **NCAA** Cheerdancing competition. Perpetual won the top prize.

Lions, Knights seal championship clash

From page A27

Defending champion San Beda fought off a late uprising by Mapua to prevail, 74-64, while Letran turned back Jose Rizal, 70-61, to quickly end the Final Four showdown at the Araneta Coliseum.

Game 1 of the best-of-three series starts on Wednesday.

Though touted as the league's fiercest rivals for decades, San Beda and Letran will only be battling for the championships for the second time ever.

The last time they clashed was in the 1950 finals when the Knights—then notoriously labeled the monicker Murder Inc.—rampaged for 13 straight eliminations wins only to get derailed by the Red Lions, who forced a title playoff.

But Letran, bannered then by the legendary Lauro Mumar, beat the Caloy Loyzaga-led San Beda for the title.

"It's going to be a huge game," said San Beda coach Frankie Lim. "You can't win a championship easily so it's going to be hard."

Lim said Letran "did a great job" hiding its talented bench.

Letran clinched its third championship appearance in the last five years. The last two times they made the finals—in 2003 and 2005—the Knights ended up bagging the crown.

"In fairness to Jose Rizal, that was a very very hard-fought game," said Letran coach Louie Alas. "The score may be deceiving but it was a hard-fought game."

The Knights leaned on their vaunted defense in the fourth quarter to force the Heavy Bombers into a dreary seven-minute silence and break the game apart after a tight first three periods.

Alas later told his mostly rookie squad that "nobody expected you to make the Final Four, *lalo na sa* finals."

Earlier, two-time defending champion San Sebastian easily disposed of Jose Rizal, 85-74, to barge into the juniors championship series.

San Beda managed to stay alive after derailing Letran, 96-86, to forge a rubber-match for the other final slot.

The varsity scores:

Third Game (Srs)

LETRAN 70—Jazul 17, Quinday 13, Daa 12, Faundo 10, Gutilban 10, Reposar 5, Melegrito 3, Guevarra 0, Dangcal 0, Del Rosario 0, Cabonce 0.

JOSE RIZAL 61—Sena 12, Wilson 12, Cagoco 11, Pradas 5, Cunanan 5, Se 4, Hayes 4, Bulangis 4, Nocom 2, Agas 0.

Quarters: 11-15, 28-30, 49-47, 70-61

Fourth Game (Srs)

SAN BEDA 74—Aljamal 26, Escobal 13, Ekwe 10, Hermida 8, Menor 6, Maggay 6, Gamalinda 5, Taganas 0, Marcelo 0, Tecson 0, Lenete 0, Tirona 0.

MAPUA 64—Dela Peña 14, Banal 13, Co 12, Pascual 10, Del Rosario 7, Acosta 6, Sumalinog 2, Guillermo 0.

Quarters: 21-15, 37-33, 61-46, 74-64

www.koreanair.com
Excellence in Connection
Enjoy the Best First Class Service
in the World
Excellence in Flight
KOREAN AIR
Reservation Center, Manila: 893-4909

Website: www.inquirer.net/business
BUSINESS
Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** • Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**
Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** business@inquirer.com.ph

PETRON
FUELED FOR BETTER VALUES
Get 3% fuel rebate

Peso, stocks rally after Erap conviction

World oil prices near all-time highs

SINGAPORE—WORLD OIL prices traded flat near all-time highs above $78 yesterday after the Opec cartel agreed to what traders called a token output hike.

At 2:09 p.m., New York's main futures contract, light sweet crude for delivery in October, was four cents higher at $78.27 a barrel from a record $78.23 in late US trades on Tuesday.

That price was close to the all-time intraday high of $78.77 hit Aug 1.

Brent North Sea crude for October delivery was three cents lower at $76.35 a barrel.

The decision on Tuesday by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to pump an extra 500,000 barrels a day from the start of November was intended to signal the cartel's willingness to respond to supply fears in consumer countries.

But analysts forecast that oil stocks would continue to fall in rich countries during winter months in the northern hemisphere—the peak period for demand—applying upward pressure on prices.

"I think it's a drop in the ocean," Steve Kelbrick, chief executive officer of Swiss-

WORLD/ B4

But traders divided on issue of pardon

By Doris C. Dumlao, Ronnel W. Domingo and Kristine L. Alave

LOCAL FINANCIAL MARKETS YESTERDAY REBOUNDED AS INvestors heaved a sigh of relief over the nation's peaceful acceptance of the Sandiganbayan's conviction of ousted President Joseph Estrada after a six-year trial on plunder charges.

The peso yesterday rallied to 46.71 against the dollar, sharply gaining from Tuesday's finish of 47.12, boosted by a relative serenity after the antigraft court handed down its ruling.

The local currency was also boosted by a rebound in regional currencies that was, in turn, inspired by prospects of a reduction by the US Federal Reserve of its benchmark interest rate during its open market committee's meeting next week.

Stock prices closed 1.21-percent higher yesterday as relieved investors discounted political risks after Estrada's conviction, dealers said.

They said a decision by the anticorruption court to jail Estrada for life helped calm investors who were nervous over the political ramifications ahead of the verdict.

The composite index added 39.63 points to 3,307.60, off the day's high of 3,312.87. A total of 3.2 billion shares worth P5 billion were traded. Gainers beat losers 94 to 18.

"The court has spoken. It's time to move on," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities.

"After a long trial, investors are happy that it's over. The decision calmed the nerves of wary investors," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings.

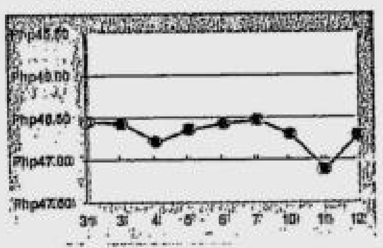
But Vistan said that while the market reacted positively to the verdict, it was still too early to say that political tension has totally eased. "Fundamentals are starting to prevail over emotion but there are still a lot of hurdles."

"There was a relief rally. The key was that ev-

PESO/ B5

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



AUGUST SEPTEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P46.71 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 12, 2007

Gov't offers 7 infra projects to private sector

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION has unveiled seven infrastructure projects it will pursue over the medium term partly with private sector investments, hoping to sustain the robust economic growth seen in the first half.

Augusto Santos, director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, said yesterday during the government's mid-year economic briefing that the projects were chosen due to their high socioeconomic impact and absence of hurdles, legal or otherwise.

Speaking before private sector analysts and members of the business community, Santos said the government was inviting private investments to be poured into the projects that were expected to provide decent rates of return.

The undertakings include the Panguil Bay Bridge, the LRT Line 1 North extension project, the Tarlac-La Union Toll Expressway Phase I, the MWSS bulk water supply project, the Wawa River project, the operation and maintenance of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway project, and the privatization of the Ambuklao-Binga Hyroelectric power plants.

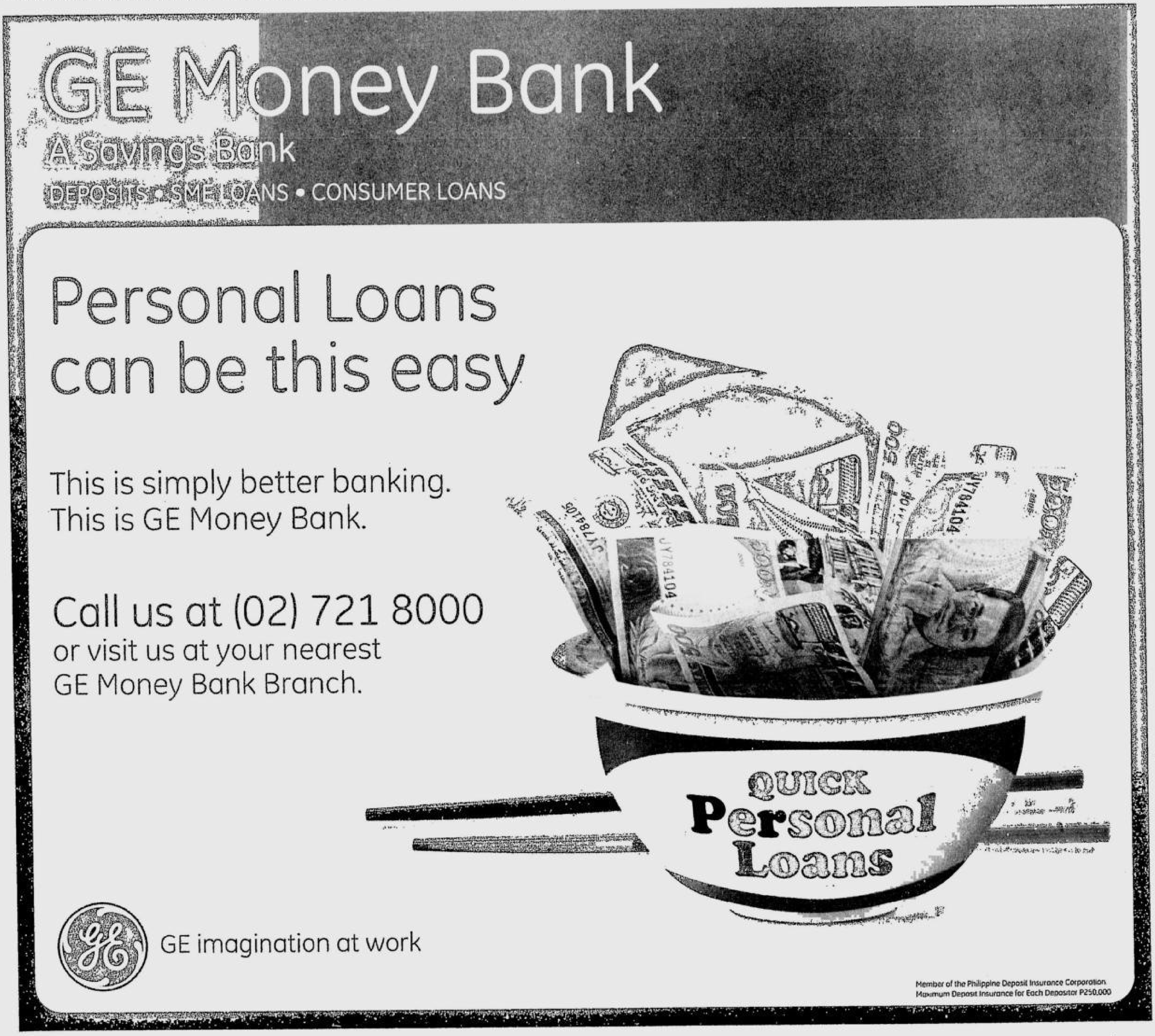
These infrastructure projects are an update of a list of projects that the government mentioned as priorities earlier in the year. Officials said projects included in the updated list were determined to have attractive rates of return for potential investors.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves earlier explained that private sector investors would get their returns from

GOV'T/ B5

IN THIS ISSUE

- **ERC loses jurisdiction** over ecozones /B2
- **SM, Microtel sign** deal on 150-room hotel in Mall of Asia /B4
- **Breaktime:** Sorry, not end of the world yet /B5
- **No need to amend** Epira, Amcham says /B7
- **Bangko Sentral** bracing for volatility /B8


GE Money Bank
A Savings Bank
DEPOSITS • SME LOANS • CONSUMER LOANS
Personal Loans
can be this easy
This is simply better banking.
This is GE Money Bank.
Call us at (02) 721 8000
or visit us at your nearest
GE Money Bank Branch.
QUICK Personal Loans
GE imagination at work
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000

ERC loses jurisdiction over ecozones

Peza gains control of power suppliers in economic zones

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUthority will gain jurisdiction over power distributors supplying electricity to the country's economic zones, taking over the responsibility of regulating these entities from the Energy Regulatory Commission.

Peza Director General Lilia De Lima said the guidelines for Peza's regulation of ecozone power providers was published on Sept. 10 and would take effect on Sept. 25.

"The guidelines state that all power suppliers providing power in the ecozones should register with us," she said on the sidelines of yesterday's Philippine Economic Briefing. "The (Department of Justice) already said that we have that power, so we're registering them."

The Peza, through a DOJ legal opinion, has been given regulatory power over distribution firms operating within ecozones.

The legal opinion, De Lima said, removed power companies operating within ecozones from the jurisdiction of the ERC.

This should redound to faster petition approvals and also help reduce power rates to make manufacturing plants more globally competitive.

Apart from making the Peza responsible for regulating ecozone power distributors, the Department of Energy will also declare open access in the country's public and private ecozones, giving locators there a chance to choose their power supplier.

This move is expected to make local industries even more competitive with their counterparts abroad.

Energy Undersecretary Melinda Ocampo had earlier said this would serve as a prelude to full open access, with ecozone locators becoming part of the contestable market for power.

"Industrial customers will be directly connected to high-voltage transmission lines, allowing the reflection of the true cost of power," she said. "The generation part will be deregulated and only the distribution charge will be regulated. It will be true open access."

BOC exceeds August collection target

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS REported that it collected P20.9 billion in August, exceeding its P20.7-billion in revenue target for the month.

On a cumulative basis, however, the BOC still fell short of its goal. It actually collected P133.9 billion from January to August, but its target for that period was set at P145.9 billion.

Collection for the first eight months was higher than the P129.3 billion collected in the same period last year.

The BOC, the second biggest revenue earner among government agencies after the Bureau of Internal Revenue, has been tasked to collect P228.2 billion for the entire year. This means that it still has to collect over P94 billion in the remaining months of the year to meet its full-year target.

In a report submitted to the Senate, the BOC said it has implemented several measures to shore up collection and allow it to meet its full-year target. Included in these action plans are the tightening of audit schemes, automation of inspection procedures, auction of forfeited imported goods and collection of customs bonds.

Earlier, Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said the BOC had purchased 15 X-ray machines, with the help of official development assistance from foreign lenders, this year to speed up and tighten inspection of imported goods.

The BOC is set to buy 15 more machines this year so that more ports in the country will be secured from the entry of smuggled goods.

In the report, the BOC said it expected to collect P1.4 billion in additional revenue from the automation of its inspection procedures. Automation trims the length of time it takes customs personnel to inspect imported goods, and hastens collection of import duties.

The BOC also said it would run after more suspected smugglers and expects to collect P2 billion more from its Run After the Smugglers (RATS) program.

The BOC said it would likewise intensify its collection from customs bonded warehouses. Goods imported by CBW operators are duty-exempt, an incentive given by the government to reward exporters for their dollar contributions to the economy.

But the imported goods should be used as raw materials for export. If some of the imported goods were used to produce finished items sold domestically, then the CBW operator should pay import duties.

The BOC and the BIR are hard-pressed to meet their collection target, which are in line with the government's aim of reducing its budget deficit for the year to P63 billion from last year's P64.8 billion.

The government breached its deficit ceiling for the first six months reportedly due to the failure of the BOC and the BIR to meet their respective collection targets in the first half.

But finance officials said the measures implemented by the BIR and the BOC, as well as efforts to boost privatization, would allow the government to attain its deficit-reduction goal for the year.

DA adds planting seasons to raise rice productivity

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE plans to raise to seven the number of planting seasons for rice over the next three years to attain 95-percent rice self-sufficiency by 2010.

Normally, the country has two cropping seasons—the dry season from May to October, and the wet season from November to April.

"My demand for our regional executive directors is to give me seven cropping seasons, starting the dry season of 2008 until the dry season of 2010," said Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap.

This means that the DA has to insert one additional cropping season each in 2008 and 2009, on top of the traditional dry and wet cropping seasons.

This brings total cropping seasons to seven, counting the dry season of 2010.

According to Yap, the DA will soon identify key areas where these additional cropping periods may be implemented.

Agriculture officials will start to discuss the plan of putting in additional cropping seasons until 2010 through the quick turnaround planting program, Yap said.

Yap added that after this date, they would also know the actual extent of the damage wrought by the prolonged dry spell in Luzon.

The dry spell has resulted in a shortfall of rice production, prompting the DA to offset the losses through the QTA program.

With changing of guard, IC reverses CTPL thrust

FOLLOWING THE REPLACEMENT OF its head, the Insurance Commission has reversed its earlier stand on the compulsory third-party liability (CTPL) issue and now backs the proposal of the Government Service Insurance System that will make the pension fund the sole provider of that particular insurance policy.

"I studied the proposals (to address the rampant sale of fake CTPL policies), and saw the GSIS model to be superior than the others," said Eduardo Malinis, the new insurance commissioner.

The 69-year-old Malinis, who prior to his retirement was head of the commission from 1995 to 2004, said he didn't know why Malacañang asked him to replace Evangeline Escobillo last month, but stressed he didn't seek the post.

Escobillo, together with nonlife insurance firms, had staunchly opposed the proposal of allowing the GSIS to monopolize the CTPL business. What she pushed for was the establishment of an electronic database that would contain information on sold CTPL policies and list of legitimate insurers.

But Winston Garcia, president and general manager of the GSIS, earlier said the proposal of the government pension fund would be the best way to eliminate the sale of fake CTPL policies on unsuspecting vehicle owners.

The GSIS also received the support of the Department of Transportation and Communication, which earlier issued Department Order No. 2007-28 that called for the implementation of the GSIS solution.

CTPL insurance, a requirement for motor vehicle registration, covers expenses on possible death or bodily injuries of third party victims of vehicular accidents involving the registered vehicle. The insurance cover is P100,000.

Members of the Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association Inc. (Pira) took the matter to court, saying the DOTC order was unconstitutional because it called for a monopoly.

Pira scored when the Makati Regional Trial Court last month issued a preliminary injunction on the DOTC order.

But Malinis said that should the court eventually decide in favor of the GSIS proposal, then the Insurance Commission would work on its immediate implementation.

"Not all monopolies are unconstitutional," Malinis said. "Monopoly is all right as long as it is regulated."

Michelle V. Remo

The use of unlicensed software has harmed our business.

Prime Pacific Grill Corporation
2nd & 3rd Floors FMA Building Baler Street
San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City

Last December 18, 2006, our company, **Prime Pacific Grill Corporation**, was raided by operatives of the Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD) of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for using pirated software in our business operations.

By using unlicensed copies of Microsoft and Adobe software, we have placed our company at risk of legal action, business loss and humiliation!

We would like to apologize to the manufacturer of the software programs that we used without proper license for any harm and damage we may have caused. We would also like to apologize to all our customers for our wrongdoing.

Stop this irresponsible behavior now.

Intellectual property rights (IPR) must be respected. We urge all company officers and business owners to adhere to the IPR laws by proactively ensuring that there is no pirated or unlicensed software on your premises. Software piracy hurts the Philippines' local software industry. It causes loss of thousands of local jobs, millions in local wages, investments in new technologies, as well as tax revenues for the Philippine government.

Unfortunately, it is now through our irresponsible actions that we have learned the penalty and consequence of using pirated and unlicensed software.

We support all enforcement actions of the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team (www.papt.org.ph) to curb software piracy. We encourage businesses to learn from our mistakes and stop this irresponsible behavior now.

Don't let it happen to you!

Gov't hikes budget for socialized housing to ₱7.62B in '08

Bulk to subsidize resettlement projects in Metro Manila

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT HAS raised its budget for low-cost housing programs next year by 200 percent to P7.62 billion as part of its bid to boost social spending.

In presentation materials distributed during a government economic briefing yesterday, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said the allocation for the affordable housing sector for 2008 would substantially rise from the P2.5 billion budget for this year.

Of the total amount allotted for next year, P5 billion will be used to subsidize the government's resettlement program mainly informal dwellers. No such allotment was made under the 2007 budget.

Most of the country's informal dwellers are scattered in the National Capital Region, mostly consisting of people leaving rural areas in order to seek better livelihood opportunities.

Another P900 million of next year's budget will fund the socialized housing programs of the state-owned Home Guaranty Corp.

Low-cost housing units refer to those worth P300,000 to P3 million, HGC president Gonzalo Bongolan said.

He said the national government's support for HGC was usually in the form of equity so that the agency could beef up its socialized housing guarantees.

"By charter, our guarantees should be 70 percent in low-cost and socialized housing," Bongolan said.

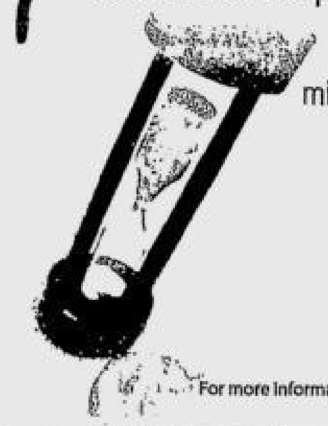
"With these guarantees, banks will be more confident in lending to socialized housing," he said.

Another P900 million was allotted next year for the purchase of mortgages for securitization, or the process of pooling assets in order to raise funds backed by these assets.

Finally, some P500 million was allotted for the government's community mortgage program.

PUT YOUR BUSINESS
ONLINE !!!
PROMO valid until October 31, 2007 only!
We also offer
FULLY MANAGED
Virtual Private Servers and
Dedicated Servers
http://www.cidhosting.net
WEB 1000 PLAN
1GB Diskspace
20GB Bandwidth
for only P1,200.00 per month
☑ ANTIVIRUS
☑ Email Tech Support
☑ Disaster Recovery Site
☑ Website Builder
☑ UNLIMITED Email Accounts
☑ UNLIMITED MySQL Databases
☑ UNLIMITED Postgres Databases
☑ UNLIMITED FTP Accounts
Call now and avail of the most reliable and affordable WEB HOSTING services!
Email us at sales@cid-systems.com Tel. No. (02) 366-6478

Tired of going from building to building to distribute your resumés?
We can help you.
JOB Market



Robinsons Bank
Peso Time Deposit
Seriously affordable at ₱25,000
minimum deposit and a truly high 6.25%* interest p.a. for 5 year + 1 day term, tax-free with monthly interest crediting.

TERM	INTEREST RATES* per annum
1 year	5.5%
3 years	6.0%
5 years	6.25%

* Offered until October 31, 2007
* Net of Documentary Stamp Taxes
* Subject to change w/out prior notice

Visit any Robinsons Bank branch now!
For more information, please call tel. no. 631-8888 or 1-800-10-631-8888 for toll-free provincial calls.
www.robinsonsbank.com.ph
RobinsonsBank A Savings Bank

STOP ATTENDANCE FRAUD
and save your company money...
MYSOLUTIONS
FINGERPRINT TIME RECORDER
Choose the device that suits your needs
(for as low as P7900)
PC-based Bio-I Simply Affordable
USB Port Download T3 Basic and Economic
TCP/IP Download T4 Our Best Seller
TCP/IP or USB Flash Disk Download A8 Fully Loaded
TCP/IP Download with Door Access Control F4 Total Security
TCP/IP Download with Door Access Control F707 Slim and Right
exclusively distributed by MYSOLUTIONS
trusted by more than 500,000 companies and 120 countries worldwide
For more inquiries: 367-8188, 365-8488, 365-7313, 364-9355, 367-2844, 364-6571.
* Major Credit Card Payment is Accepted
www.mysolutions.com.ph

INSULAR LIFE
i love rewards

Pay your premiums & enjoy perks and pleasure

A survey once revealed that in times of financial difficulties, "insurance premiums" rank last in the "To Pay" list.

Out of five monthly must-payables, most consumers or household decision-makers would prefer to fork out hard-earned money for food, tuition fees, utility bills (electricity, water, cable and telephone), and credit card bills over insurance premiums. Worse, if the tight purse strings become tighter, insurance premiums would find its way into the "Won't Pay Now, Will Think About it Later" category and would eventually be bumped off the list.

This survey finding is disheartening because the policy owners seem to overlook the reason why they purchased their insurance policies in the first place – that is to secure their future. Further, paying insurance premiums seems to be among the least priorities because it is perceived to be a "burden" and a continuing obligation for some.

To change this notion and make paying insurance premiums a more rewarding endeavor for its policyholders, Insular Life, the first and the largest Filipino life insurance company, re-launched I Love Rewards, a unique feature of its Extra Special Policyholders (ESP) Program.

Insular Life's I Love Rewards enables its ESPs to earn rewards points for paying their insurance premiums in advance. Advance premium payments refer to payments made 1 day to a maximum of 30 days prior to premium due date, regardless of mode of payment (quarterly, semi-annual or annual). The rewards points earned may be accumulated or instantly redeemed for shopping, hotel, dining and lifestyle gift certificates or donation opportunity.

Among the rewards line-up, the ESP can choose whether to augment his monthly budget for basic needs (groceries, medicines, clothes, etc), reward himself (spa treatments, choice appliances, gadgets, etc), or feed his soul (donation to CRIBS Philippines).

This early payment incentive, one of the few innovative solutions Insular Life provides to its policyholders, is convenient to those who plan their purchases or expenses in advance. It is like accomplishing your "To Pay or To Do" lists ahead and being rewarded for it at the same time.

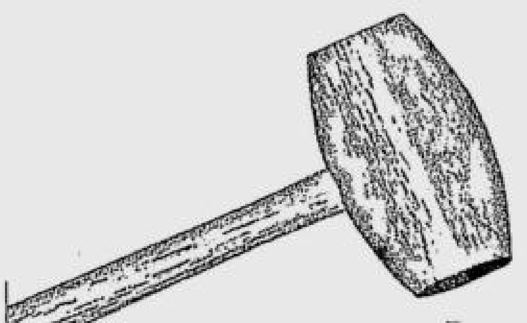
More so, one will no longer think of paying insurance premiums as a burden, but as a rewarding experience. Ultimately, one will regard insurance not as an unappealing product but a stylish commodity.

I Love Rewards makes Insular Life the only life insurance company that offers rewards points alongside insurance protection, and at the same time gives flexible rewards options, thus the tagline "Enjoy the rewards that come with entrusting your protection to us. Live Life. Love Rewards."

In its recently concluded Premyo Kada Premium ESP Redemption Promo, some ESPs chose to redeem their rewards points to donate to institutions such as CRIBS Philippines, Habitat for Humanity and Haribon.

Insular Life takes pride in providing a full circle of innovative customer experiences to its ESPs through the ESP Program. Aside from I Love Rewards, ESPs enjoy the free annual medical check-up and complimentary breakfast, as well as newsletters. Moreover, all ESPs are given the Prestige Card that offers discounts and special perks from select merchant partners and exclusive invitation to events sponsored by the Company.

ESPs can inquire or claim their rewards by calling 771-1818 locals 1318 to 1320, Mondays to Fridays, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Simply inform the Marketing Staff of the rewards item of your choice (based on the Official Rewards Catalogue) and they will advise you regarding the delivery of your redemption request.



NOW AVAILABLE at
0% Premium DEAL-LITE
Deferred Payment Offer
Next time, spare Junior's savings.
Too broke that you need to break your child's piggybank?
Not when you have
INSULAR LIFE
i-ASSURE max
i-Assure max is the lifetime protection plan that takes care of your family's future and provides funds for spending on life's necessities and leisure. i-Assure max gives cash allowances by the end of the 4th year and every other year thereafter. These are benefits guaranteed by the financial strength and dependability of nearly 100 years of continuous service by the first and largest Filipino life insurance company, Insular Life.
To know more about i-Assure max, call 771-1818 or e-mail us at inquiry@insularlife.com.ph. You can also visit our website at www.insularlife.com.ph.
THE INSULAR LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.
Insular Life Corporate Centre, Insular Life Drive, Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 12, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
73	36.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	57.5	57.5	57	57	103,000
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	62.5	63.5	62.5	63	3,361,300
935	630	China Banking Corp.	800	800	795	800	3,760
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	420,000
75.5	38	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	54.5	55	54	54.5	1,188,100
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	45.5	47	45.5	46.5	2,600,100
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	62.5	62.5	62.5	62.5	200
39.57	14.57	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	23.75	23.75	23.5	23.5	1,412,400
90	49.5	Security Bank Corp.	70.5	70.5	70	70	575,100
66	42.53	Union Bank of the Philippines	56	56	55.5	56	52,500
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	10,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2.1	2.1	1.96	1.96	3,650,000
16.25	2.7	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	10.75	11	10.5	11	646,200
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.85	0.85	190,000
1,790.00	1,555.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,770.00	1,770.00	1,770.00	1,770.00	150
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.3	2,140,000
3.1	1	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.92	1.98	1.92	1.92	172,000
1,005.00	225	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	760	760	750	750	2,850
2,300.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,300.00	2,300.00	2,300.00	2,300.00	1,160
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp	1.44	1.48	1.44	1.46	251,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	2,101,000
70	47.5	First Gen Corp.	66	67	66	67	103,800
92	45.5	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	74.5	75	74.5	75	1,104,400
15	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	14	14.25	14	14	2,185,600
105.45	16.36	Manila Electric Co.	75.5	78.5	75.5	78.5	1,153,400
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	16,951,000
6.5	3.75	Petron Corp.	5	5.1	5	5	16,865,000
14.75	6.7	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.7	409,000
2.5	1.7	Salcon Power Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	13,000
1.9	0.95	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.18	1.22	1.18	1.22	470,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
2.95	1.86	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.06	2.06	1.96	1.98	22,000
61	33	Jollibee Foods Corp.	51.5	52.5	51.5	52.5	418,000
9	4.7	Pancake House Inc.	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.6	5,000
1.96	0.84	RFM Corp.	1.5	1.62	1.5	1.62	110,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.22	2.24	2.2	2.2	130,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	62	62.5	61.5	61.5	39,500
88	60	San Miguel Corp. "B"	63	63.5	62.5	62.5	945,800
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	3,854,400
0.55	0.22	Vitarich Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.37	150,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.59	EEI Corp.	4.2	4.2	4	4.2	102,000
9.2	4.8	Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	101,000
7	0.28	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.12	10,908,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.15	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.3	200,964,000
1.4	0.61	Interphil Laboratories Inc "B"	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	10,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1	1	1	1	100,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.1	Picop Resources Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.33	0.34	7,560,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.92	A. Soriano Corp.	3.1	3.25	3.1	3.25	437,000
.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.0975	0.105	0.0975	0.1	42,600,000
1.28	0.21	APC Group Inc.	0.6	0.61	0.59	0.59	2,660,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	3	3	3	3	80,000
.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	58,000,000
.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	11,800,000
.7	4.9	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.5	6.8	6.5	6.6	1,156,000
.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,000,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.2	43,975,000
1.38	0.5	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.8	0.82	0.8	0.82	200,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.12	2.24	2.12	2.22	2,191,000
590	370.83	Ayala Corp.	467.5	485	467.5	485	95,500
5.8	1.18	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.4	3.6	3.4	3.55	42,160,000
10.25	3.5	DMCI Holdings Inc.	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	1,000
6.9	1.06	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	200,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	2,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	20,000
14.5	5.7	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	15,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.74	1.78	1.74	1.74	307,000
11.5	0.98	Multitech Investments Corp.	4.65	4.75	4.55	4.6	2,455,000
8.2	2.8	PAL Holdings Inc.	7	7	6.9	6.9	17,000
0.215	0.01	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.19	0.195	0.18	0.19	812,590,000
1.54	0.76	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	100,000
452.5	215.79	SM Investments Corp.	350	350	345	347.5	302,800
2.1	1	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1,000
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.31	6,560,000
1.6	0.88	South China Resources Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18.75	18.75	18	18	1,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	2,250,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.78	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	60,000
6.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	7.5	7.7	7.3	7.7	193,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc	14	14.25	13.75	14	25,223,600
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.06	1.14	1.06	1.12	1,572,000
4.7	2.46	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	113,000
2	1.2	Cebu Prop. Venture & Dev't Corp."A"	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	3,000
2.9	1.3	Cityland Development Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	3,000
0.86	0.29	Crown Equities Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	200,000
0.99	0.49	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	7,920,000
0.47	0.048	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	1,090,000
1.48	0.43	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.1	1.14	1.1	1.14	4,692,000
2.44	1.09	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.38	1.38	206,769,000
0.49	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.29	0.31	0.29	0.31	250,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.59	0.69	0.59	0.65	23,320,000
4.4	1.69	Megaworld Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.3	10,053,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	3.8	3.95	3.8	3.85	54,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	50,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.46	830,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.8	40,000
23	12.5	Robinson Land Corp.	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.75	1,690,500
5.9	1.5	SM Development Corp.	4	4	3.85	3.85	2,392,000
13.5	6.24	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.25	11	11	1,870,200
3.25	0.85	Shang Properties Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	119,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	910,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	4.95	5.3	4.95	5.3	31,674,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	16	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30.5	31	30.5	31	9,800
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.4	249,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.2	1,115,000
1,445.00	1,025.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,320.00	1,325.00	1,315.00	1,320.00	183,450
2,820.00	1,995.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,670.00	2,685.00	2,670.00	2,680.00	288,940
7.9	4.15	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.8	2,225,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	5,990,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	8.1	9.7	8.1	9.7	2,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.4	8.7	8.4	8.6	1,508,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.029	0.03	0.029	0.03	16,200,000
29.5	8	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	15	15	15	15	400
2.9	1.54	Ionics Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	300,000
0.32	0.043	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.195	0.2	0.19	0.19	25,130,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.22	2,933,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	66,000,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8	322,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.54	1.54	99,000
6.8	3.15	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	295,000
34.5	15.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	32.5	32.5	32	32.5	14,600
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.9	720,000
4.55	2.8	Philippine Racing Club Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	327,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Prod. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.52	0.52	350,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.78	0.79	0.78	0.79	150,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.8	8.3	7.8	8.3	38,000
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3	3	3	3	10,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
41	6.6	JTH Davies Holdings Inc.	20	26.5	20	24	1,700
6	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	4.25	4.35	4.25	4.3	169,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	199,800
30	9.9	Paxys Inc	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	94,100
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and In					
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc					
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc					
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining					
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. "A"					
5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver					
3.1	0.33	Geograce Resources					
0.35	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated					
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated					
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp.					
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp.					
30	1.2	NIHAO Mineral Res.					
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp					
6.8	3.15	Philex Mining Corp					
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Min					
1.8	0.56	Vulcan Industrial a					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp					
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and M					
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and M					
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resour					
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp					

Financial	
Industrial	4
Holding Firms	1
Property	1
Service	1
Mining & Oil	6
All Shares Index	2
PSEI	3

COMPILED BY RHEA BLANCAS, INQUIRER RESEARCH

September 12, 2007

Country	Unit
United States	Dollar
Japan	Yen
United Kingdom	Pound
Hong Kong	Dollar
Switzerland	Franc
Canada	Dollar
Singapore	Dollar
Australia	Dollar
Bahrain	Dinar*
Saudi Arabia	Rial
Brunei	Dollar
Indonesia	Rupiah
Thailand	Baht
UAE	Dirham
EU	Euro
Korea	Won
China	Yuan**
Denmark	Kroner
India	Rupee
Malaysia	Ringgit
New Zealand	Dollar
Sweden	Kroner
Taiwan	Nt Dollar

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Sept. 11.
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.

SM, Microtel sign deal on 150-room hotel in Mall of Asia

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SM INVESTMENTS CORP. HAVE signed an agreement with Microtel Development Corp. on a 150-room Microtel Inns and Suites project at the 60-hectare former reclamation area in Pasay City, now the site of the Mall of Asia.

The new hotel will be located near the SMX Convention Center, which will be the country's biggest privately owned and operated exhibition and convention center, and the SM Mall of Asia, SMIC said in a disclosure to the stock exchange.

The groundbreaking for the hotel is slated for December 2007.

SM Bay Central in Pasay is seen as a premier business and tourism district in Metro Manila. It has a total land area of 60 hectares, offering choice locations for business, tourism, retail and leisure projects.

Sources said the SM group would lease the land to Microtel, which will develop and manage the new hotel.

Microtel Inns and Suites is a chain of budget hotels. In the Philippines, it operates hotels in Baguio, Tarlac, Cavite, Batangas and Boracay with rooms numbering between 50 to 60 per hotel, the company said in its website.

SMIC, the flagship firm of mall taipan Henry Sy, has begun to simplify its corporate structure by tagging private property holding firm Shoemart Inc. as the "main company for property development efforts" of its entire group.

The action was approved by SMIC's board as part of the company's earlier announced reorganization of its corporate structure, SMIC earlier said in a disclosure to the stock exchange.

TKC Steel raising P2.7B from offering

TKC STEEL CORP. IS RAISING UP TO P2.7 billion from a proposed additional offer of shares in November this year.

In a statement, the company said it filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Stock Exchange an application for a follow-on offering of 235 million common shares.

This will increase the company's public ownership to 25 percent.

The offering aims to raise fresh capital for the expansion of TKC's two subsidiaries, Treasure Steelworks Corp. (TSC) based here and Zhang Zhou Stronghold Steel Works Co. Ltd. (ZZ), which operates in Fujian province in southeast China.

The shares will have an offer price ranging between P8 and P11.50 each. Through the offering, TKC is expected to raise between P1.9 billion and P 2.7 billion.

First Metro Investment Corp. was appointed as financial adviser and lead underwriter for the offering.

"The increase in capital will correspondingly enable the TKC subsidiaries to expand our domestic operations and support our China venture," TKC Steel president Anthony S. Dizon said in a statement.

The International Iron and Steel Institute (IISI) has estimated that global steel production in 2007 would grow by 6 percent or 1,318 million metric tons from 2006 levels of 1,244 million metric tons, TKC Steel said.

China will also continue to be the major consumer of steel with a projected increase of 13 percent in 2007 followed by another 10 percent in 2008, taking the total to 443 million metric tons or 35 percent of the world total.

TKC Steel is the only steel manufacturing company listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange. It has controlling equity interest in Treasure Steelworks as well as in Zhang Zhou Stronghold Steel.

TKC Steel is part of the Tiu Group of Companies that also owns several businesses in the financial servicing and hospitality and tourism sectors. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

World oil prices near all-time highs

From page B1

based South Energy Consulting SARL, said at a petroleum conference in Singapore. "I don't think there will be much effect upon the price. I think the price movement is inexorable."

Geopolitical risks, a lack of global refining capacity and fear of hurricane damage to Atlantic oil installations have also been driving crude prices higher.

Analyst David Kirsch from Washington-based consultancy PFC Energy said the Opec decision "will take some of the near-term supply concerns off, but shouldn't put too much downward pressure on markets."

Saudi Arabia appeared to have forced through the increase in the face of stiff opposition from the majority of its Opec partners, notably price hawks Iran and Venezuela.

Some Opec ministers had talked of their unease at increasing production when the outlook for global economic growth—which determines future demand for oil—is uncertain.

The 10 Opec members that are bound by production limits have raised their output target by 1.4 million barrels a day to 27.2 million bpd, from its current level of 25.8 million bpd, ministers explained.

Countries belonging to the cartel produce about a third of global oil supplies. *AFP*

THE TASTE OF
Savor the blend of two hot tourist destinat

Ho Chi Minh City / Angkor Wat
US$642

Ho Chi Minh City / Hanoi
US$630

Bali / Singapore
US$529

Philippine Airlines
Swingaround

Only Philippine Airlines offers you great value Swingaround tour packages
accommodations. So if you can't choose between two hot tourist destinatio

Prices per person originating from Manila are based on twin-sharing low-season hotel acco
Advance purchase requirements may apply for some destinations. Prices are subject to change without prior notic
PAL Sales Office Cebu (032) 340-0191 / 340-3107 / 340-7615 or PAL Sales Office Davao (082) 222-036

Widest Network • Largest Fleet • Most Passengers Flown • Highes

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

MINING					
ıstrial Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	59,000,000
"A"	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.2	232,000
"B"	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3	151,000
ıd Dev't Corp.	13.75	14.5	13.75	14.5	4,902,500
	10.25	11	10.25	11	24,000
Mines Inc.	3	3	3	3	1,000
Philippines Inc.	1.64	1.68	1.62	1.64	70,152,000
Mining Co. "A"	0.27	0.29	0.27	0.29	36,040,000
Mining Co. "B"	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	18,830,000
"A"	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.027	625,500,000
"B"	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.031	178,900,000
ırces Int'l Inc.	11.5	12	11.25	11.5	827,700
	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	66,300,000
	6.3	6.8	6.3	6.6	27,922,000
ıg Corp.	0.99	1.02	0.99	1	1,080,000
Mining Corp	1.14	1.18	1.14	1.18	1,522,000
OIL					
	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	10,430,000
ıals Corp. "A"	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	151,300,000
ıals Corp. "B"	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	4,500,000
es Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	2,000
	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	197,000,000

VERAGES		VOLUME	VALUE
875.53 UP	6.17	16,780,120	510,016,605.00
166.47 UP	53.29	226,776,300	1,419,338,415.00
929.92 UP	51.60	712,819,565.00	
454.13 UP	10.07	321,091,300	928,212,380.00
600.95 UP	7.40	124,997,430	1,265,877,328.00
139.24 UP	334.34	1,454,616,200	433,253,260.00
091.39 UP	23.53		
307.60 UP	39.63		
GRAND TOTALS		3,215,437,650	5,269,517,553.00

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

CURRENCIES

	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
	0.722543	1.000000	46.9400
	0.006324	0.008752	0.4108
	1.468858	2.032900	95.4243
	0.092801	0.128436	6.0288
	0.607792	0.841184	39.4852
	0.693353	0.959601	45.0437
	0.475889	0.658631	30.9161
	0.599124	0.829187	38.9220
	1.916713	2.652731	124.5192
	0.192678	0.266667	12.5173
	0.474328	0.656470	30.8147
	0.000077	0.000106	0.0050
	0.022579	0.031250	1.4669
	0.196733	0.272279	12.7808
	1.000000	1.384000	64.9650
	0.000772	0.001068	0.0501
	0.096042	0.132922	6.2394
	0.134264	0.185822	8.7225
	0.017832	0.024679	1.1584
	0.205707	0.284698	13.3637
	0.506053	0.700378	32.8757
	0.107271	0.148463	6.9689
	0.021845	0.030234	1.4192

2007

** Asian time closing rate as of Sept. 11, 2007

Sorry, not end of the world yet

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ALL RIGHT, THE STOCK MARKET rebounded yesterday and the peso's exchange rate gained against the dollar.

Such good news—even as doomsayers had expected the end of the world yesterday—supposedly came as the direct result of the "guilty" verdict in the plunder case against the man named Band ... Wrist Band.

The financial markets seem to have ignored what this administration has expected—a violent backlash of the guilty verdict.

Was it then a case of much ado about nothing?

The Palace was surrounded yesterday with military trucks, container vans, and barbed wire fences for—what was the polite term again—"security reasons."

Reports said thousands of soldiers and policemen were deployed all over Metro Manila in "full alert," meaning, actually, that they were just about ready to shoot us.

Precisely because of the "security reasons," a lot of the guys in my barangay were actually afraid to go out of their houses yesterday.

(Okay, I cancelled meetings. I'm only human. So shoot me!)

The Palace people may not know it, or they just refuse to acknowledge it, but to us down here, those "security reasons" precisely run smack of martial rule.

For, in truth, as the markets convincingly showed us yesterday, the business sector did not need any protection from the military and the police.

Only the Lola at the Palace did.

* * *

OF COURSE we can only expect our beloved politicos who have plans for 2010 to ride on Wrist Band's news-hugging conviction. Right, Kiko?

The Wrist Band factor will remain for sometime, I guess, maybe even well beyond 2010.

Well, nobody can hurry the Supreme Court, for one.

From the Wrist Band camp, they believe that it may also be best for Wrist Band to delay his appeal before the Supreme Court.

You know, for him to wait for a friendly tenant in Malacañang by 2010, similar to what he had hoped for in 2004, when his best friend Fernando Poe Jr. had made a run for the presidency.

In other words, business people are already getting used to the politics around Wrist Band in the past six years. They already proved that the economy could withstand the issue even until 2010.

* * *

STILL, some people cannot wait for 2010 to launch some "potential" presidential candidates like Vice President Noli de Castro.

This early, the man is a victim of the 2010 syndrome.

From what I gathered, De Castro's camp has already unraveled a smear campaign being programmed against the VP.

And you know what? They now know that the demolition job will focus on De Castro's personal affairs.

That should disable him for 2010, right?

Meaning, his foes want him out of the race this year.

Still, De Castro himself has been saying that he has any political plans beyond his current term.

That's why the business sector supports him a hundred percent in his current job as housing czar.

That's why, with the support of business, De Castro was able to relieve Metro Manila of a big part of its problem about squatters—i.e., informal settlers.

One good case is the North Rail project.

Come to think of it, in his official role, De Castro has not attracted any controversy at all. In fact, he has gone low profile.

You don't read about him commenting on every issue under the sun. Right, Mike?

No wonder, the rumored demolition job against De Castro is designed to attack his personal life.

It's just that, in the 1998 elections, Wrist Band already showed us that it does not work.

* * *

DURING the media briefing of the foreign cigarette company British American Tobacco recently, its top expat here and its Filipino lawyer in effect blamed the BIR for the "controversy" over the excise tax rate on the BAT's "Pall Mall" brand of cigarettes.

They denied everything that was ever published on the controversy, including the points that I raised in this column, of course.

BAT expat Jeremy Flint said that the tax rate on "Pall Mall" was never reduced from P25 per pack to P5.60 per pack, because BAT has been paying P5.60 per pack for the cigarette brand since it was introduced in 2004.

Flint and his lawyer in effect blamed the BIR, saying that, during the time of its ousted commissioner, Jose Mario Buñag, the BIR only decided to raise the tax to P25 per pack.

Thus, according to BAT, the Department of Finance only kept the "Pall Mall" excise tax at P5.60 per pack.

In short, no tax cut here, amigo!

Hmmm. But what Flint and his lawyer forgot to say was, only BAT and its local partner La Suerte actually set the excise tax on "Pall Mall" at P5.60 per pack.

They simply claimed that the retail price of "Pall Mall" was less than P5 per pack.

Unfortunately, the excise tax rate on any cigarette brand is not up to the maker or the brand owner, such as La Suerte and BAT.

It is actually up to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

BAT's "Pall Mall" brand, in other words, still needed the BIR's official "classification."

Now, the BIR ruled that the excise tax should be P25 per pack, because the imported "Pall Mall" (priced at P35 per pack versus the P5 per pack claim of BAT) was already paying that rate before the local version was even introduced.

Under BIR regulations, not even the BIR commissioner can lower the excise tax of P25 per pack once it was already paid for the same brand.

See? That is what the DOF reversed. Who said it was not a tax cut?

Peso, stocks rally after Erap conviction

From page B1

erything was peaceful. There were no violent mass actions," said Paul Joseph Garcia, chief investment officer at ING Securities Philippines.

"Those investors who remained on the sidelines can now start deploying some of their cash," Garcia said.

Reevie Vergara, treasurer at state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines, said the market had overreacted in selling down local assets in recent days.

Investors were concerned that a "guilty" verdict on Estrada, who was ousted by a military-backed mass uprising in 2001, could spark violent protest actions as the former president still enjoyed strong support among the masses.

But as the financial markets were bracing for the worst—still reminded of a violent Labor Day mass uprising shortly after President Macapagal-Arroyo took over the unfinished term of Estrada—the generally calm acceptance of the verdict yesterday morning boosted market sentiment.

"It put the market at ease," a money market trader said.

Over the long run, the country's much-improved economic fundamentals are also seen supporting the peso even amid prolonged external financial volatility.

However, business groups are divided over the possibility of the government pardoning Estrada, with some pushing for it while others saying this option should not be considered too soon.

"(A pardon or parole) is something to consider, we are not against it, but not so soon," said Alberto A. Lim, executive director of the Makati Business Club.

"Let us savor the moment and be proud that we can now be relieved of our reputation as a country where big offenders are either not pursued or are let off the hook with the least difficulty," Lim said in a phone interview.

"Thinking about (a reprieve) at this time is too early, let us make the criminal pay by serving time," he added, saying the gravity of Estrada's crime should not be forgotten so easily.

"In 2001, we were so eager to take him out (of office) and bring him to justice," Lim added. "After such a long and—until today—uncertain process, we should not be talking so soon about pardon or parole."

In a separate interview, Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, lauded the Sandiganbayan's ruling on the conviction of Estrada, which he said showed that the country's justice system was working.

"Of course, (Estrada) has other options such as appealing the case, which can further drag this issue on," Ortiz-Luis said. "We hope this would not (drag on) because we would like to have a closure and be able to move on."

Yesterday, Ortiz-Luis said the public should now consider the path of reconciliation through a presidential pardon for Estrada or parole after serving six years of his life sentence.

The influential Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry also noted that the conviction of Estrada for plunder would have no long-term negative effects on the economy.

PCCI president Samie Lim said there might be short-term reactions to the verdict, but the economy was strong enough to withstand these reactions.

Lim told reporters at a forum in Club Filipino yesterday that the negative reactions to the verdict would last only for a day or two.

The economy's strong growth momentum is also strong enough to withstand the uncertainties that may arise as Estrada begins his appeal, Lim added.

"There are a few more steps for him. I think we are far from the end of the issue," he said. *With a report from AFP*

MAKE YOUR ₱ GROW

OPEN A 5-YEAR PESO TIME DEPOSIT NOW!
EARN AS HIGH AS 6.25% INTEREST P.A. TAX FREE!

INVESTMENT	*INTEREST RATE
P 50,00 - 999,999	5.75%
P 1,000,000 - 4,999,999	6.00%
P 5,000,000 - UP	6.25%

* RATES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Looking after you.

Bank of Commerce
www.bankcom.com.ph

Call us at 812-0000 locals 2250 / 2439 / 2233 / 2465
Member: PDIC & Megalink. Deposits insured up to P250,000 per depositor.

Text Bkcom<yourname><your landline><your e-mail address> send to 2327 for Globe or 0917-8902327 for non-Globe users.

Gov't . . .

From page B1

the proceeds of the infrastructure project, such as toll collected from motorists that will pass through an expressway project.

The Panguil Bay Bridge will include the construction of a main bridge and viaducts that will provide a link between Northern and Central Mindanao. Santos said the project was estimated to have a rate of return of 12.48 percent.

The LRT Line 1 North extension will involve the construction of a 5.71-kilometer elevated line stretching from the Monumento Station of Line 1 to North Avenue Station of Line 3. The estimated cost of the project is P6.3 billion, while it is expected to generate a rate of return of 3.5 percent.

The Tarlac-La Union Expressway is aimed at easing traffic in the covered provinces. The project will include the construction of an 84.5-km, two-lane asphalt concrete pavement, 28 bridges, seven interchanges and 15 overpasses, among others. The project's estimated cost is P16.88 billion and its expected rate of return is 11.71 percent.

The MWSS bulk water supply project will ensure supply of water in the southern part of the west zone of Metro Manila. The project's estimated cost is P5.2 billion while its expected rate of return is 15.27 percent.

Similarly, the Wawa River project aims to ensure delivery of water, this time to three areas in Rizal—San Mateo, Rodriguez and Montalban. The project's estimated cost is P1.95 billion, while its rate of return is projected at P16.25 percent.

The operations and maintenance of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway project is aimed at connecting the three development areas in Northern Luzon and geographically diversify investments that are heavily concentrated on Metro Manila.

The privatization of the Ambuklao-Binga Hyroelectric power plants are aimed at improving the delivery of electricity services in Benguet. The government has adopted the policy of giving up operations of businesses that are deemed better run by the private sector.

TWO CITIES
ions only from the country's No. 1 airline.

Beijing / Shanghai
US$616

Singapore / Jakarta
US$337

Sydney / Melbourne
US$843

Avail of great bargains on round-trip airfare with hotel
to visit, then go to both! Make your reservations today.

modation. Limited seats only. Surcharges and restrictions apply.
For bookings and inquiries, please call PAL Reservations Manila (02) 855-7777 / 855-8888,
/ 226-4604 / 221-5513. Visit the nearest PAL Ticket Office or travel agent.

Sales Revenue • IATA Operational Safety Audit Certified

Philippine Airlines
Clearly No.1
www.philippineairlines.com

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

In Loving Memory

of

Violeta Calvo-Drilon

(August 20, 1943 - September 13, 1995)

Franklin Drilon, his wife **Mila**,
and children **Eliza** and **Chris Luna**, **Patrick** and grandchild **Lia**,
request relatives and friends to remember her in their prayers on her
TWELFTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today
at the following churches:

Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan	6:15 AM, 7:15 AM & 6:00 PM
Mary the Queen Church, Greenhills, San Juan	6:00 AM, 7:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Christ the King Church, Green Meadows, Q.C.	6:00 AM, 7:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Valle Verde V, Pasig City	6:30 AM
Lady of the Abandoned Church, Sta. Ana, Manila	7:00 AM
La Consolation Convent, Santolan	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Edsa Shrine, Edsa, Quezon City	12:15 PM
Holy Cross Church, J.P. Rizal, Makati City	6:30 AM & 6:00 PM

ERRATUM

In the **DEATH ANNIVERSARY** notice of the late

HAYDEE BOFILL YORAC

published in this paper on September 12, 2007,
the dates: *March 4, 1941 – September 12, 2007*
should have read **March 4, 1941 – September 12, 2005.**

Our Apologies

MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE (O.M.I.)
announce with deep sorrow the death of

REV. FR. ALFONSO E. CARIÑO, O.M.I.

(March 19, 1940 – September 9, 2007)

His remains lie in state at the OMI Formation House, Broce, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Shariff Kabunsuan.

Interment will take place on Friday, September 14, 2007 at the OMI Cemetery after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto.

Prayers are requested for the eternal repose of his soul.

Death Notice

EMILIA FONT

Died September 11, 2007 at the age of 91.

Her body lies in state at Chapel O Loyola-Guadalupe, Makati City.

Cremation will be on Friday, September 14, 2007, 1 p.m. at Loyola-Guadalupe.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.

Tel. Nos. : 712-3001 • 749-3806 to 11

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
Pek Lian Sy Tan	Chapel – 9	14 – Sept. – 07 8:00 a.m.	Himlayang Pilipino
Benjamin C. Pineda	Chapel – F	14 – Sept. – 07 10:00 a.m.	Holy Cross Memorial Park

---

NATIONAL
CLASSIFIEDS

[illegible]

More Classified Ads:

DOLE-NCR	*A11*
Senate of the Philippines	*A28*

HONESTO PANDY MARIANO JR.

of Pagbilao, Quezon and San Pedro, Laguna

Peacefully joined our Creator on September 12, 2007 at the age of 85.

A loving husband, a responsible father, a sweet grandpa, a World War II Veteran and Retired Member of the Manila Police Department.

His bereaved wife **Cinta**; children **Clem** and **Cora**, **Pepe** and **Cely**, **Luz** and **Alex**, **Nanette** and **Romy**, **Boy** and **Karen**, **Chi** and **Allan**; grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains will lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapel Q, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at 7:30 a.m. at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Our Dearly Beloved

MARY JANE "Jingle" PELIÑO RAMIREZ

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 10, 2007 at the age of 36.

Her husband, **Bong Ramirez**; children, **Martin** & **Kiko**, together with her parents **Jun** & **Dolores Peliño**; her siblings **Ann Cariño** & **Family** and **Henry Peliño** & **Family** give thanks to the Lord for the blessing of her life.

Her remains lie in state at **Capilla Aurora A, Arlington East, The Garden Chapels**, 1354 C. Raymundo Ave. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City.

Interment is on **September 15, 2007** at the **Pasig Catholic Cemetery** after the 1:00 P.M. Mass at the **Immaculate Concepcion Parish, Pasig City.**

"Only goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."
— Psalm 23:6

ATTY. ALLAN ESCOBER BENUSA

of Barugo, Leyte and North Fairview, QC
December 16, 1955 – September 7, 2007

now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord at the age of 51.

His loving wife, **Elvira Liwanag-Benusa**; His children, **Ronald Allan**, **Cherrubin**, **Allan Anthony** and **Edgar Allan**; sister, **Benilda B. Fogata**; brothers **Cesar** and wife, **Juliet**, **Edwin** and **Gil**; uncles and aunts; cousins, nieces and nephews together with his other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Solace 1 of the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Quezon City, where daily Holy Masses are held at 8PM. Cremation will be held on Friday, September 14 at 2PM at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches after the 10 a.m. Mass.

TEODORO G. CASTRO, JR., M.D.

July 26, 1937 – August 5, 2007

Thank you for celebrating his life.

Thank you for sharing our grief.

Thank you for reminding us to live
in the light of his love.

Please continue to pray for his
eternal peace and joy.

Tessie, Tina and Thirdy

CLASSIFIEDS

AUCTION

www.goindustry.com

2-DAY LIVE AUCTION SALE

Machine Tools; Plant Services; BUELLER Pasta Line; Mics. Equipment & Spares

On: Wednesday 19th & Thursday 20th September 2007 at 10:30am
At: Bo. Ugong, Pasig City
Over 800 Lots

MACHINE TOOLS - WAKEN KIKO Gap Bed Lathe, ELLIOT Shaper, SHANGHAI UNIVERSAL Milling Machine, Dividing Head, Dobule EndedGrinders, Verticle Drill, Garage Press, Mech. Sheet Bending Roll, Asstd Size Bench Vice, MILLER Arc Welders Anvil, Manual Pipe Bender, Asstd Hand Tools, Mechanical Mobile Manlift; etc.

PLANT SERVICES - (2) STANDARDKESSER DVISBURG Steam Boilers; (2) KEWANEE Steam Boilers; HANKINSON Screw Type Aircompressor; ATLAS COPCO GA30 Screw Type Air Compressor; ATLAS COPCO Air Power Air Compressor; BOHN Chiller; STARCOSA Centrifuge; Verticle Air Cylinder; Water/Fuel Pumps; Water Treatment Facilities; Steel Storage Tanks; Asstd. S.S. Tanks / Mixing Tanks; Asstd. Pipe Valves; Fiber Glass Verticle Storage Tank; etc.

MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT & SPARES - BUELLER Pasta Line; TCM / (3) YALE Battery Operated Forklifts; KITO 1.5 Ton Cap. Electric Hoist; Large Cap. Steel Constructed Grains Storge-Silo; Flour/Feed Mill Misc. Spares; Crushing/Milling Machines; Feed Conveyor/Asstd. Sizes Conveyor Belts; Steel Tote Bins; S.S. Mini Sugarcane Crusher; TRIPKO S.S. Filling Machines; Portable Corn Milling Machines; Vacuum Pump; Large Qty. Of Asstd. Induction Motors; Pump Spares; FUJI FW-7, KOMATSU Packer/STIAVELLI Packaging Machine; (5) Non Operational TCM Forklifts; Hand Pallet Jacks; Unused Solid Forklift Tyres; Asstd. YOKOHAMA Unused Tyres; Fire Extinguishers; Wooden Pallets; Asstd. Gas/Oxygen/Methy Bromide Cylinders; FISHER Isotemp Oven; Steel Lockers/Cabinets; Asstd. Hoods; Large Qty. Of Stainless /Steel Scraps; Plastic Buckets; Asstd. Fittings Bearing/Pillow Blocks; PVC Coupling/Pipes; S.S. Conveyors; Walk-In Freezer; Split/Window Type Aircon; etc.

Day 1 - Machine Tools; Plant Services; Storage; S.S. Mixing Tanks/Silos; Flour/Feed Mill Spares; Palm Oil Tanks
Day 2 - Office Furniture & Equipment; Pallet Jacks; Portable Machines; Walk-In Freezers/Spare Parts; Forklifts; Pasta Line; Snack Food Line

On View: Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th September 2007- 9am to 5pm & morning of sale day
Refundable Deposit: Php 20,000 (upon registration)

TENDER SALE

A Large Quantity of Copper Cable

Deadline of Submission of Bids: Monday 17th September 2007 - 17:00
Location of Assets: Bo. Ugong, Pasig City
VIEWING: STRICTLY BY APPOINTMENT

GoIndustry Henry Butcher
INDUSTRIAL ASSET DISPOSAL AND VALUATION

Contact JENNY, JESSA or DANG
Tel: +63 2 822 5555
manila@goindustry.com

Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(ZAMCELCO)
Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO BID

The Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMCELCO) at Putik, this city per requisite under Board Policies on Pre-Qualifications, and Bids and Awards, invites ALL interested Bidders/Suppliers to bid for the supply of the following electrical materials/equipment/items, to wit:

No	Quantity	Unit	Item Description
1	4	UNITS	DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER, 37.5KVA (BRAND NEW) pri: 7620/13200 V. WYE, SEC: 120/240V SINGLE PHASE PHILEC, WAGNER, LG OR ABB BRAND (BRAND NEW), DOUBLE BUSHING PRIMARY AGENCY PRICE: P95,000.00
2	5	UNITS	DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER, 75KVA (BRAND NEW) pri: 7620/13200 V. WYE, SEC: 120/240V SINGLE PHASE PHILEC, WAGNER, LG OR ABB BRAND (BRAND NEW), DOUBLE BUSHING PRIMARY AGENCY PRICE: P148,000.00
3	2	UNITS	DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER, 167KVA (BRAND NEW) pri: 7620/13200 V. WYE, SEC: 120/240V SINGLE PHASE PHILEC, WAGNER, LG OR ABB BRAND (BRAND NEW), DOUBLE BUSHING PRIMARY AGENCY PRICE: P 254,000.00

NOTE: SUBJECT FOR SITE INSPECTION OF THE MANUFACTURING PLANT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE SUPPLIER PRIOR TO THE DELIVERY OF THE UNIT TO ZAMCELCO COMPOUND AT PUTIK

You may secure the Pre-qualification Requirements from the office of the Finance Department, ZAMCELCO Complex in Putik, this city anytime during office hours and submit the same upon completion of all requirements thereof.

Submission of the Pre-qualification Requirements shall not be later than 5:00 pm of September 13, 2007 and no documents appertaining thereto, shall be accepted thereafter, UPON PAYMENT OF A NON-REFUNDABLE FEE OF FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00).

All applicants will be duly notified as to the results of the pre-qualification eligibility process. Only those who are pre-qualified will be allowed to participate in the bidding. A post-qualification may be conducted accordingly hereafter.

Bidding will be conducted on September 20, 2007.

Sealed bid in duplicate copies should be submitted to the Committee on Bids and Awards at the Office of the Finance Department at the above-mentioned address on or before 2:00 p.m. of September 20, 2007. Five percent (5%) Bidder's Bond is required as a matter of policy.

The right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the coop is hereby reserved as an absolute prerogative of ZAMCELCO.

(Sgd.) REINERIO R. RAMOS
General Manager

(PDI--Sept. 12 & 13, 2007)

ANNOUNCEMENT

to our valued advertisers

Our newly renovated **SM Megamall branch** is

NOW OPEN

to serve your advertising needs.

Please call

635-0219, 637-2008, 687-2366 or fax **635-0220**

for your ad placements.

1st PDA Nat'l Confab-Mindanao set

THE PHILIPPINE DENTAL ASSOCIATION-Iligan City Dental Society in cooperation with United Laboratories, Inc. thru Dolfenal will conduct the 1st PDA National Convention-Mindanao on Sept. 14-16 at Cheradel Suites, Br. Raymond Jeffrey Road, Iligan City.

According to Dr. Flordefes S. Fernandez, convention chair, Dr. Francisco C. Jimenez, Jr., chair, Continuing Dental Education, and Dr. Giuseppe Martin Michael S. Tianco, president, Iligan Dental Society, the convention's theme will be "Reassessing Dentistry in the Light of New Scientific Knowledge." Top PDA officials led by its president, Dr. Eliezer B. Blanes and Dr. Jay E. Perey, VP for Mindanao will grace the event.

CLASSIFIEDS

SANYO DENKI PHILIPPINES, INC.

No. 2 Blk F-1 Subic Techno Park along Argonaut Hway, Subic Bay Freeport Zone

is in need of

ONE (1) QUALITY ASSURANCE DEPARTMENT MANAGER

With the following qualifications: Has at least 5 years extensive exposure / technical knowledge in the Quality Assurance for completed Fan Motor products, process control, evaluation of products, dealing with claim from customer for damage; Has hands on experience on these equipments; three dimensional measuring device; actual circle rate measuring device, special quality tester and multi-meter. Can read, speak and write NIHONGGO; at least 29-36 years old.

Interested applicants may send their resumé with 2x2 recent photo and credentials to:

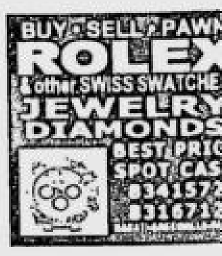
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT CENTER
Bldg. 255 Subic Bay Freeport Zone

PAWN • BUY • SELL
ROLEX, AP
PANERAI, OMEG-
CARTIER INC
PATEK, BULGAR
SWISS WATCHES
GOLD & DIAMOND SPECIALISTS
secondo Glorietta
☎ 894-0282 • 889-7956

WE BUY at HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
HIS & HERS Watch Center
5646593 5897041
0917-8473744
Room 603 Manila Pavilio
Hotel and
GoldCrest Bldg.
Glorietta-2 Makati

PRIME BAGUIO PROPERTY
2501 SQ.M.
LOCATED IN FRONT OF WRIGHT PARK NEAR MANSION HOUSE.
DIRECT BUYERS ONLY. PLS. CALL PEPITO SANCON OR ROBERT REYES AT 5345632.

RYKEROLL RENT-A-VAN
07 URVAN ESCAPADE
10 HOURS P1,800
WITH DRIVER
7878776 / 7964377
09213497170



Bringing Eaga to the world

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

THE RECENT ESTABLISHMENT of the BIMP-Eaga consortium of tour operators and travel agents is most certainly a welcome development.

The consortium is the strategic arm of the BIMP-Eaga Tourism Council (BETC) that seeks to maximize the potentials of the East Asian growth area as an alternative to mainstream tourist destinations in Asia.

The growth area covers parts of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Recruiting members

Since the consortium will be formally launched in November this year during the 3rd BIMP-Eaga Travex in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, BETC chairs have now started tapping active travel tour operators and travel agents to become members.

With the consortium aiming to develop and market innovative and competitive tour packages across Eaga, we see this region becoming the next big thing in travel.

The challenge would be to effectively promote BIMP-Eaga as a single tourist destination in the same way Europe is being positioned.

The burden of providing the favorable conditions to make this happen will be partly borne by the members of the consortium as they will be developing the travel packages for Eaga.

First, flights should be made available, as this will affect the cost of the tour package. While travel agents can still develop tour packages without ready flights, the competitiveness will be in question, given the cost of connecting flights.

Second, should flights be available, acceptable arrangements should be undertaken by airline companies with tour operators and travel agents, particularly on promo rates.

And third, there should be enough committed travel agents who would aggressively sell these tour packages in the market.

Once these conditions are met, the consortium will be able to develop competitive travel packages for BIMP-Eaga.

Putting the region in the spotlight and making the people aware of what it has to offer as a destination would have to be considered.

With such grand plans in mind, we must also address that need to establish stronger public-private sector partnerships in marketing and promotions between government tourism offices and BETC as well as complete high quality tourism materials on BIMP- Eaga.

Region's strength

Focusing on culture, adventure and nature (CAN) would certainly play to the region's strength for there is a wealth of these three in this part of the world.

For the Philippine side, which covers Mindanao and Palawan, destinations and activities that have been initially identified include the Underground River in Puerto Princessa, Palawan; Fort Pilar Shrine and Museum, Samal, Yakan and Badjao villages, Carrera de Zamboanga, regatta, game fishing and trekking at Pasonanca National Park and Ecozone Trail in Region 9 and the Gardens of Malasag ecotourism village, seven tribes in Bukidnon, whitewater river rafting/tubing, diving, canopy walk, hot/cold springs, Misamis Occidental Aquamarine Park (Moap) in Region 10.

Activities and destinations in Region 11 include the Tudaya Cultural Village in Sta. Cruz, Mt. Apo Mountain climbing, spelunking at Kapalong, Davao Norte, whitewater rafting in Ma-a, Davao City, the Philippine Eagle Sanctuary, Eden Nature Park, Crocodile Park, Malagos Garden Resort and Puentespina Flower Gardens.

For Region 12 and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), tourist destinations include Lake Sebu, Bila-an Cultural Village, Sarangani River tubing, Mt. Apo, Batasan Hot Spring, Tawi-Tawi Turtle Island, farms and a bat sanctuary.

Prime destinations

For the Caraga Region, the Balanghai Shrine and Museum, Bood promontory, Siargao Island, Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary and Suhoton Cove have been identified as possible destinations that will attract travelers.

Infrastructure and transport support will also be an important factor in getting travelers to Eaga. When properly linked transport routes are put in place, a thriving tourism industry will inevitably follow.

(Joji Ilagan Bian is an advocate for the development of the island. She is chair of Joji Ilagan Foundation, Phil. Call Centers Alliance, Mindanao Tech Voc Schools Association; Mindanao Rep., Export Development Council. E-mail comments jojibian2@yahoo.com.)

No need to amend Epira, Amcham says

RP urged to lower power rates instead

By Abigail L. Ho

INSTEAD OF AMENDING RA 9136, OR the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira), the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines says the government should just focus on making the existing law work.

"There is no need to tinker with the Epira. We should give it time to work," Amcham executive director Robert Sears said on the sidelines of yesterday's Philippine Economic Briefing .

He said the government should work on finding ways to reduce power rates in the country as this was still a major concern among foreign businesses operating here.

"We want to see the Philippines have competitive power rates," he said, adding that the government had "to move aggressively to sell the power assets" of the National Power Corp. as this would pave the way for the implementation of retail competition and open access.

The Epira mandates the fulfillment of five conditions before open access could be implemented.

Two of these remain unfulfilled: The privatization of 70 percent of Napocor's Luzon and Visayas capacities and the transfer of 70 percent of Napocor's independent power producer contracts to IPP administrators.

However, House Bill No. 1889, penned by House energy committee chair and Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo and Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, sought to reduce the current 70-percent Napocor privatization threshold to only 30 percent so that retail competition and open access could be implemented soon.

It likewise proposed to bring down from the current 70 percent to 30 percent the percentage of capacities covered by IPP contracts to be placed under the control and management of IPP administrators.

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. has targeted the privatization of 70 percent of Napocor's Luzon and Visayas capacities by the end of 2008, enough to meet the retail competition and open access requirement.

With the sale of the 600-megawatt Masinloc coal-fired power plant in July, PSALM had already sold 24.8 percent of the state firm's 4,335.7-megawatt capacity in the two grids.

PSALM vice president for asset management and electricity trading Froilan Tampinco said in an earlier interview that PSALM should be able to hit the 50-percent privatization level by year's end.

The 70-percent level should be reached by next year and the entire privatization process completed by 2009.

PSALM will be auctioning off the 600-MW Calaca coal-fired power plant next month, the 175-MW Ambuklao-Binga hydropower plant package in November, and the 192.5-MW Palinpinon geothermal facility and 146.5-MW Panay diesel-fired power plant package in December.

Tired of going from building to building to distribute your resumés? We can help you.
JOB Market

Fair trade group seeks Jpepa renegotiation

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE SENATE SHOULD HOLD back action on the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement and instead go for renegotiation, this time involved affected sectors in the talks, said Quezon Rep. Lorenzo R. Tañada III.

Speaking as a partner-ally of the Fair Trade Alliance, which is against the Jpepa in its present form, Tañada said in a briefing there was no hurry to ratify the treaty.

"Let us look hard before we leap," he said. "Let us not play into the Department of Trade and Industry's fear factor, pushing us into implementing the Jpepa lest we lose out to our neighbors."

The lawmaker was reacting to statements made by trade officials, who had said ratifying or rejecting the Jpepa meant pursuing opportunities or passing up on them, especially at a time when Tokyo was opening its service sector to foreigners for the first time in history.

Last August, Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino—who was the country's chief negotiator during the Jpepa talks—said Japan has wrapped up similar agreements with Brunei, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand and was in negotiations with other SEA countries.

Aquino said that without the Jpepa, the Philippines would be left behind because: Philippine exports to Japan would not enjoy preferential tariffs unlike those from Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, Indonesia and even Vietnam; Filipino professionals would not have access to jobs in Japan unlike those from the same countries; the Philippines would not send a "strong positive signal" to major trading partners that it is committed to grow under a more open trading environment, unlike the same countries.

Yesterday, Tañada urged the Senate to "take cognizance of the concerns of various sectors when it considers the Jpepa.

"Let us not simply take a leap of faith and beat others to the punch just because talks in the World Trade Organization has hit a snag," he said.

"(Let us not commit into this) just because entering into bilateral trade agreements would be the mood of most countries," he added.

Splash to hike capital

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

BEAUTY PRODUCT MANUFACturer Splash Corp. is seeking regulatory approval to hike its capital to P1 billion from P400 million.

In documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Splash said that with the increased capital, Splash will have 1 billion shares at P1 each, from the current 400 million shares at P1 apiece.

The capital hike plan was approved by the majority of the company's board of directors.

Out of the increase, Splash Holdings Inc., which owns 99.99 percent of Splash Corp., will subscribe to P450 million worth of the increase in capital or 450 million shares.

Splash Holdings is an investment holding company that is wholly owned by Splash Group founders Dr. Rolando and his wife Dr. Rosalinda Ang-Hortaleza.

Splash Holdings owns six companies with total gross sales in 2006 amounted to about P4.5 billion.

Splash Corp. plans to list part of its shares on the stock market this year to raise P1.9 billion to P2.5 billion.

Splash will sell a total of 223.85 million shares through an initial public offering at P8.70 to P11.18 each.

The offer shares will consist of 188.84 million new shares and 35 million shares now held by Splash Holdings Inc., the company said in a prospectus filed with regulators.

Net proceeds from the primary offer are estimated at P1.57 to P2 billion.

In its prospectus, Splash said the funds will be spent for research and development (P391.5 to P503.5 million), brand management and new product introductions (P234.9 to P302.13 million) and acquisitions (P939.6 million to P1.2 billion).

I.T. SOLUTIONS DESIGNED TO MAKE YOUR LIFE EASY.

intel Xeon inside
Quad-core. Unmatched.

As a growing business, you have enough challenges coming your way. I.T. shouldn't be one of them. Fortunately, IBM has a range of solutions lined up for you. From hardware to software, our solutions are scalable and flexible. Start with our IBM System x™ with Quad-Core Intel® Xeon® Processor. Easy to install, its plug and play self-installation capabilities give you instant benefits. Still want more? Choose from a wide range of server, storage or software solutions. From the people and Business Partners of IBM. **Innovation made easy.**

FLEXIBLE SOLUTIONS FROM IBM. MADE SIMPLE.

CHOOSE YOUR SERVER

IBM SYSTEM x3500
FROM PhP214,000* (7977B2A)
Quad-Core Intel® Xeon® Processor E5310 1.6GHz
1066MHz FSB with 2x2MB L2 Cache (Dual Capable)
1GB (2x512MB) PC2-5300 667MHz ECC DDR2 FBDIMM
Integrated IBM ServeRAID 8k; supports RAID-0, 1, 5 & 10
2x73.4GB 15K Hot-Swap SAS Hard Disk Drives
3 Years Parts and Labour, 9x5, On-Site, Next Business Day
ALSO AVAILABLE
IBM SYSTEM x3500
Quad-Core Intel® Xeon® Processor E5320 1.86GHz
FROM PhP219,000* (7977C2A)

IBM SYSTEM x3400
FROM PhP137,000* (797542A)
Dual-Core Intel® Xeon® Processor 5110 1.6GHz
1066MHz FSB with 2x2MB L2 Cache (Dual Capable)
1GB (2x512MB) PC2-5300 667MHz ECC DDR2 SDRAM FBDIMM
FREE IBM ServeRAID 8k; supports RAID-0, 1, 5 & 10
2x73.4GB 15K Hot-Swap SAS Hard Disk Drives
3 Years Parts and Labour, 9x5, On-Site, Next Business Day
ALSO AVAILABLE
IBM SYSTEM x3400
Dual-Core Intel® Xeon® Processor 5120 1.86GHz
FROM PhP141,000* (797542A)

IBM SYSTEM x3650
FROM PhP188,000* (797921A)
Dual-Core Intel® Xeon® Processor 5110 1.6GHz
1066MHz FSB with 2x2MB L2 Cache (Dual Capable)
1GB (2x512MB) 667MHz PC2-5300 ECC DDR2 SDRAM
Integrated IBM ServeRAID 8k-I; supports RAID-0, 1 & 10
2x73.4GB 15K Hot-Swap SAS Hard Disk Drives
3 Years Parts and Labour, 24x7, On-Site 4 Hour Response
ALSO AVAILABLE
IBM SYSTEM x3650
Dual-Core Intel® Xeon® 5120 1.86GHz
FROM PhP192,000* (797921A)

ADD YOUR STORAGE

IBM SYSTEM STORAGE DS3400
Single Controller (172641X)
2 x Short Wave SFP Module (22R4902)
4 x 146GB 15K 3.5 in Hot-Swap SAS HDD (40K1044)
2 x 5M LC-LC Fibre Channel Cable - FREE (39M5697)
2 x 4Gbps SW SFP Transceiver - FREE (39R6475)

TOTAL HARD BUNDLE PhP 355,500.00

ADD YOUR SOFTWARE

NEED EMAIL SOLUTIONS — Lotus complete Messaging Express Starter Pack 10 user licenses+ SW Maintenance 12 months PhP 60,984.00
NEED WEB SOLUTIONS — IBM WebSphere Application Server Express Intranet Option 20 user licenses + SW Maintenance 12 months PhP 27,362.00
NEED DATA PROTECTION SOLUTIONS — IBM Tivoli Storage Manager 100 Value Units License + SW Maintenance 12 months (equivalent to per CPU license) PhP 8,769.00

TO COMPLETE YOUR SOLUTION BUNDLE, IBM OFFERS YOU:
- Simple Management - IBM Director - FREE
- 24x7 maintenance, price starting from Php8,500.00
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2 Standard Edition (5 CALs - OEM) - Ask your favorite reseller.
- FREE additional 73.4GB HDD with purchase of any MS Windows Server with any System x bundle

IBM express advantage™
ibm.com/ph/offer
1800-1888-1426

IBM Partners: Accent Micro Technologies, Inc • Advance Microsystems Corp • Advance Solutions, Inc • Axus Innovation Technologies, Inc • Creative Technologies, Inc. • ePLDT Inc. • Equicom Systems Management Inc • Fritz & Macziol Asia Inc. Information Products Corporation • Micro Image International Corporation • Microphase Corporation • Netmarks Philippines, Inc • Ng Khai Development Corporation • Northgate Technologies, Inc • Personal Computer Specialists, Inc • Productivity Tech Services, Inc • Questronix Corporation • Right Computer Systems • SIM Computer Sales, Inc • Strategy Synergy Inc • Valueline Systems & Solutions Corporation • Virtually Business Machines and Software Solutions, Inc. • Zenstin Systems Corporation

*Offers expire on September 30, 2007 Prices are inclusive of 12% VAT. Prices may vary according to configuration. * Whichever is lower. IBM, the IBM logo, the IBM express advantage logo, eServer, xSeries, System x and POWER are trademarks or registered trademarks of International Business Corporation in the United States and/or other countries. Celeron, Celeron Inside, Centrino, Core Inside, Intel, Intel Core, Intel Inside, Intel SpeedStep, Intel Viiv, Intel Xeon, Itanium, Itanium Inside, Pentium, Pentium Inside, the Centrino logo, the Intel logo and the Intel Inside logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. Other company, product and service names may be trademarks or service marks of others. © 2007 IBM Corporation. All rights reserved.

BUSINESS

Metrobank investment unit less upbeat on stock market

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

FIRST METRO INVESTMENT CORP. (FMIC), the investment banking arm of Metrobank, the country's largest bank, expects the stock market index to hit 3,500 by the end of the year and not 4,000 as earlier expected.

FMIC lowered its forecast primarily due to fears of an economic slowdown in the United States, the country's main trading partner.

The composite index yesterday ended at 3,307.60, up 1.21 percent from Tuesday's close.

FMIC vice president Eduardo Banaag Jr., who also heads the investment advisory group of the bank, said, however, that FMIC remained optimistic about the country's economic fundamentals.

In a briefing yesterday, Banaag said the Philippine economy had turned the corner after posting a 7.5-percent growth in gross domestic product in the second quarter, the highest in 20 years.

He also said that the property sector continues to be on the upswing, driven by demand for office space and very low interest rates, which have expanded the spending power of the middle class.

Construction has also fueled an economic expansion as large property companies have announced massive capital expenditures this year, including Ayala Land (P16 billion), SM Group (P20 billion), Megaworld Corp. (P12 billion), Filinvest Land (P5 billion) and Robinsons Land Corp. (P10 billion).

He added that corporate balance sheets—or the statement of assets versus liabilities—are also stronger.

"We think the GDP numbers is a trend. It's not a flash in the pan. The mining sector is up, construction is up, the property sector is doing very well, infrastructure spending is moving up and government is now able to breathe a little easier and pay its bills. We think it's sustainable (economic growth)," FMIC president Francisco Sebastian said.

BSP bracing for volatility

RP can handle fluctuations, Tetangco says

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS is bracing for further volatility in the financial markets, but says the country is strong enough to withstand the worst of its effects.

"The current macroeconomic environment is the most stable we have seen in over a decade," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said yesterday in an economic briefing.

He stressed that the country was strong enough to withstand increased volatility and the perils brought about by the growing global aversion to emerging markets.

"Most of you have been in the market long enough to expect that during a period of protracted stability or uptrends, periods of instability or downtrends are just around the corner, whether these emanate from within our economy or from across our borders," he said in BSP materials distributed during the briefing.

The country's strong external payments position, he said, should continue to support the peso.

"The strong peso helps to temper inflation as it reduces the cost of our imports. It also eases our debt burden," Tetangco said.

"What concerns us, however, is any rapidity in the peso's up moves, which could be disruptive to business planning. We are also mindful of the adverse impact of a strong peso on specific segments of the economy," he said.

But to cope with surges in capital inflows and to ease the pressure on the exchange rate, he said the BSP had liberalized the foreign exchange regulations to allow the markets greater access to foreign exchange for outward investment and over-the-counter transactions.

"The general consensus on why risk appetite, not only in the country but also globally, has increased is yield-seeking activity of agents who have been faced with plentiful liquidity and generally low global interest rates," Tetangco said.

He noted that the yields on emerging market issues had been cut substantially, due in part to excess funds trying to find a "home" in assets with a higher yield.

Another related challenge, Tetangco noted, was the potential of a credit crunch and a possible investor flight.

But Tetangco expressed no doubt that the country was prepared to meet risks.

To address these challenges, he assured that the BSP would continue to nurture a resilient economy and build a strong financial system that is flexible in the face of competition.

SARAWAK REGATTA

Experience all the excitement at this annual event when friendly competitors outpacing themselves in paddleboat, powerboat and canoe competitions along the Sarawak River. To be held on the first week of September, the Sarawak Regatta is the best place where one can see and hear the beat of drums from the 'warring tribes', just like how they did it ages ago. Today, the addition of jet-ski and kayak racing promises to add to the adrenaline-pumping action.

The popular Kuching Waterfront will become the gathering venue for thousands of people from all walks of life who will throng to witness this event. It is an offshoot of the Baram Regatta that was originally a contest between traditionally huge-war canoes bringing daring warriors travelling upriver. Much awaited by locals and visitors alike, the excitement of war-like and bygone days is rekindled as the state's finest boatmen prove their prowess in the river, just like how their forefathers braved the strong currents of the Baram River, in the days of yore.

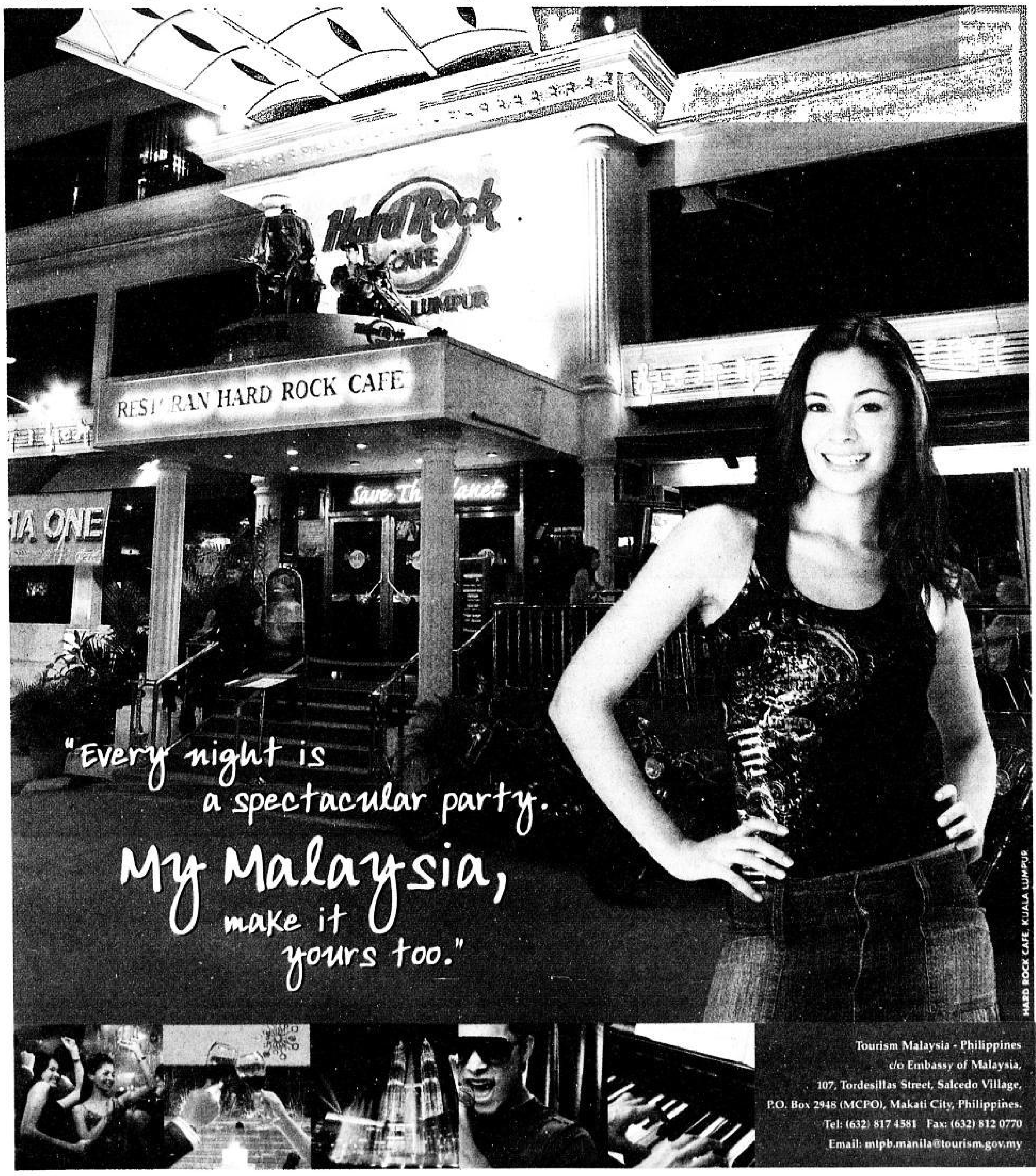
Background Info

Since time immemorial, Sarawak has been known as the "Land of Many Rivers". According to the Sarawak Museum, even the capital city, Kuching, got its name from a small river that is now no longer visible. It begins from the hill called Mata Kuching where trees known as mata kuching were found and its fruits said to resemble the mata kucing (cat's eyes).

Rivers and boats have been the major means of transportation and communication among big towns, small towns, villages and longhouses for a long time there. Besides serving as a mode of transportation, they also use these boats for leisure activities and competitions, such as regattas.

Although the Sarawak Regatta, earlier known as the "Baram Regatta" was first held in 1899 in Marudi, it was not the first to be held. According to Sarawak Museum records, the first regatta was held in January 1871 in Kuching, known as the Sarawak Regatta. Practically every other district or town throughout the state followed and turned the regattas into great annual social event until the advent of more cars, planes and fast boats in 1970's.

The annual regattas of the past were more than just boat racing, they were grand social events including peace celebrations, cultural performances and development exhibitions rolled into one big festival.


HARD ROCK CAFE
KUALA LUMPUR
RESTAURAN HARD ROCK CAFE
Save The Planet
"Every night is a spectacular party. My Malaysia, make it yours too."
HARD ROCK CAFE, KUALA LUMPUR

Tourism Malaysia - Philippines
c/o Embassy of Malaysia,
107, Tordesillas Street, Salcedo Village,
P.O. Box 2948 (MCPO), Makati City, Philippines.
Tel: (632) 817 4581 Fax: (632) 812 0770
Email: mtpb.manila@tourism.gov.my

Visit Malaysia
Celebrating 50 Years of Nationhood

Kuala Lumpur is a city that's truly electric with dazzling sights and pulsating sounds. It comes to life as the people come out to play when the sun goes down. Dine alfresco under the neon-lit night sky, or simply take a stroll along the streets and be mesmerised by the grandeur that unfolds before you as dusk sweeps over the city. Let your ears lead you to the action and join the crowds as they dance to the beat at KL's most happening clubs. So get your groove on, because this will be a party to remember.

TOURISM MALAYSIA
Home to:
malaysia AirAsia

Malaysia Truly Asia
Discover more at www.tourismmalaysia.gov.my

Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

sms feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@

WEDNESDAY 2BU ● THURSDAY FOOD ● FRIDAY FASHION/BEAUTY

The Beck & Koa project

KITCHEN RESCUE
Reggie Aspiras

THE MINUTE I ENTERED MICKEY'S DELI, the restaurant of former Manila Hotel chef/butcher Michael Beck, I knew I was in for a treat. Few places are as visually appetizing!

Enhancing the perfectly German look is Lartizan, the new baby of the bread master himself, John Lou Koa. The high-end bread shop serves rustic Euro-style bread that ranges from sour dough, delectable ciabatta, crusty baguettes, authentic pretzels to super delicious blueberry muffins.

My favorite on the menu? Nürnberger Pork Sausages with Sauerkraut and Warm Bavarian Potato Salad—fantastic in taste and price!

The recipe was passed on to Beck by his great, great grandfather, who built two restaurants in Germany and a third, fortunately for us, in Makati.

All of Michael's sausages are made in the very heart of his restaurant. He even slaughters the hogs personally, making sure that they are at the pH levels he desires. He does the same with cattle.

Although he has not officially opened yet, he already makes 40 different sausages, imports 45 other variants of the same, including hams as well as 45 kinds of cheeses, some of which had been rare finds before Mickey's came along.

The concepts of Beck and Koa fit like hand in glove. Together, they serve some of the most splendid sandwiches in town—this time both bread and filling done perfectly, making for the ultimate deli fix.

Longest sandwich

Something that tickles my fancy is the M.S.S. Mickey's Super Sandwich, the longest sandwich in town. It is stuffed with German cold cuts, Italian salamis, hams and different cheeses served in a whole Lartizan ciabatta bread.

Then there is corned beef hash, unusually wrapped in sausage casings. First, it has to be sliced and, with the casings removed, formed into patties and fried to golden brown. Excellent with mustard!

And what would a German gentleman be without his beer and knuckles? Well, Beck made sure that pork knuckles done fried or pickled could be had with a wide array of German beers.

What else could be said?

"Hey Mickey, you're so fine, you're so fine you blow my mind... Hey Mickey!..." as the pop tune from the '80s go.

My sentiments exactly when I stumbled upon Mickey's Deli that glorious Monday afternoon!

Mickey's is at 4 Jupiter Street, Makati (tels. 8996923/8952461).

My children love to eat choco cupcakes and choco lollipop with different designs. Can I ask for a recipe? Thank you for the *pulvoron* recipe. It's super delicious. My daughter told me it was the best *pulvoron*.

ANNALIZA ABABA

I hope the kids love this, too!

Cupcakes

2 c packed brown sugar
1 c white sugar
¾ c vegetable oil
3 eggs
2 2/3 c flour
1 tbsp baking powder
2 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt
1 tbsp vanilla extract
1¼ c dark cocoa powder
1½ c milk (I find that evaporated milk or sour cream makes this cake more moist)
1½ c warm water

Beat sugars and oil in a mixer for 10 minutes.

Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Combine dry ingredients—flour, baking powder and soda, salt.

Dissolve cocoa powder in warm water. Combine vanilla, milk.

Alternately add the dry and the liquid ingredients.

Pour into lined cupcake pans.

Bake in preheated, 350°, oven for 15 minutes, depending on size of cupcake molds.

Cool. Spread icing before serving.

Icing:

1¾ c cream
2/3 c butter
¼ c unsweetened cocoa powder
3 tbsp light corn syrup
350 g bittersweet chocolate, chopped into pieces
1 tsp pure vanilla extract

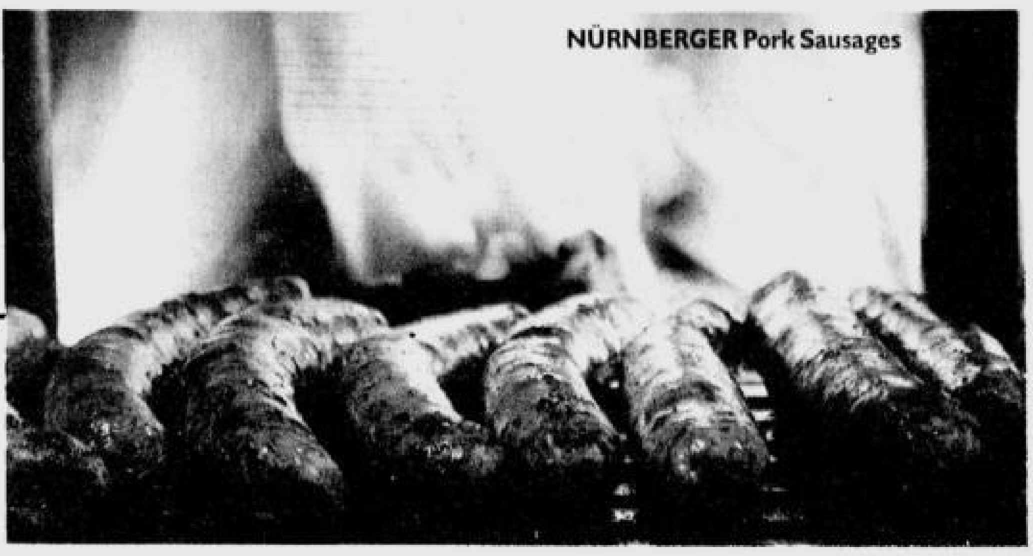
In a saucepan, combine the cream, butter, cocoa and corn syrup and bring to a boil. Remove from the heat.

Add chocolate in a large bowl. Whisk until chocolate is melted, smooth and of spreading consistency.

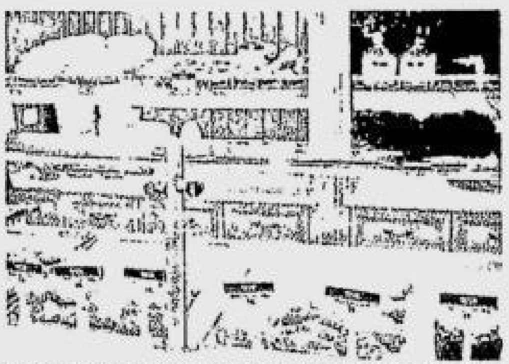
Refrigerate until ready to use.

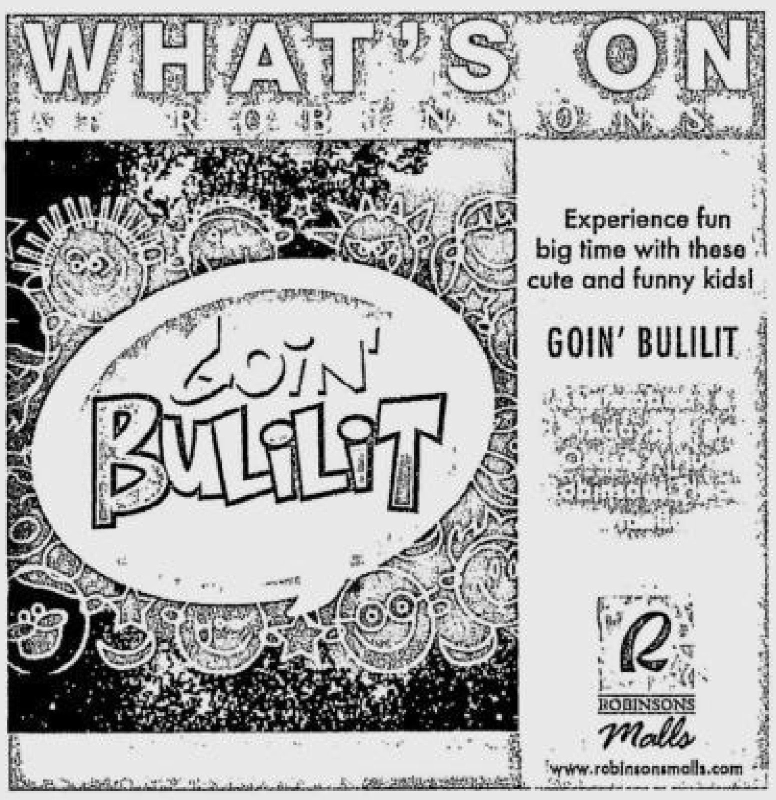
E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph

Both bread and filling are done perfectly


NÜRNBERGER Pork Sausages

MICHAEL Beck—Every Right To Be Happy


LARTIZAN serves freshly baked bread at its finest.


WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

Experience fun big time with these cute and funny kids!

GOIN' BULILIT

ROBINSONS Malls
www.robinsonsmalls.com

BETTER THAN THE BEST. Winners and participants of Chili's 5th annual Star Bar Challenge dubbed "Better than the Best" are all smiles as they hold their certificates of participation during the finals night held August 9 at Chili's in Greenhills. Previous bartending champions Joanna Francisco of Chili's Greenhills and Brando Tanaum of Chili's Tomas Morato won again this year, placing first and second, respectively. Special awards were also given to Oliver Lee Bruce of Chili's Greenhills for the Best in Drink, Joma Menes of Chili's Morato for the Best Pour and Chili's Makati for the Best Dressed Bottle. Top winner Joanna also received the Best in Top Spin award. The annual competition chooses those with the best bartending and flaring skills among Chili's bartenders staff. The occasion raised P50,000.00 for event beneficiary Knowledge Channel. Popular radio personalities Joey and Miles of 89.9 hosted the event while Pinoy Big Brother alumni Roxanne Barcelo and Star in a Million runner-up Jimmy Marquez, stood as judges. Chili's is located in Missouri cor. Nevada Sts. in Northeast Greenhills, Greenbelt 1 in Ayala Center, Makati; and Tomas Morato cor. Sct. Fernandez Sts. in Quezon City

SLIMMERS WORLD

BUY 1 MONTH GET 1 MONTH FREE!!!
NO MONTHLY DUES
ON LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP!!!
PERSONAL TRAINING & ALL THE LATEST AEROBICS

BIKINI BODIES 2007
(2nd Runner-up)
WINNER
JOLAIDA NICCOLAI PEÑA
Lost 20 lbs.
UNDER MEDICAL SUPERVISION

BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 15 FREE!!!

- MESO WHITE
- MESO REJUVENATION
- COSMETIC FILLERS
- NUTRACELL-FACE
- WART REMOVAL
- LASER ACNE TREATMENT
- SKIN WHITENING
- FACIAL

LASER HAIR REMOVAL
BEST PRICE
In the Philippines!

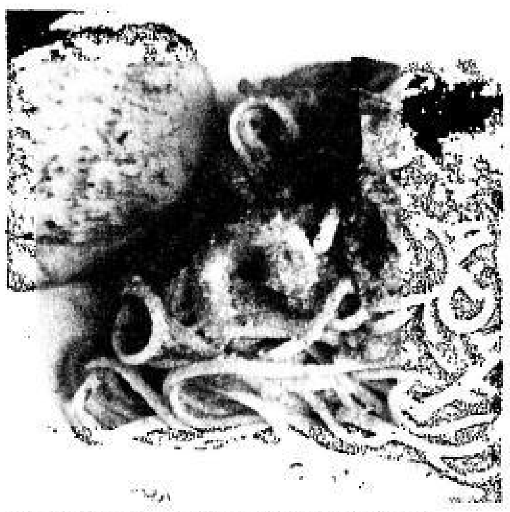
SMOOTH THOSE LUMPS & BUMPS WITH THE SPOT REDUCTION SYSTEM!!!

Per DTI-NCR Permit #3986, Series of 2007

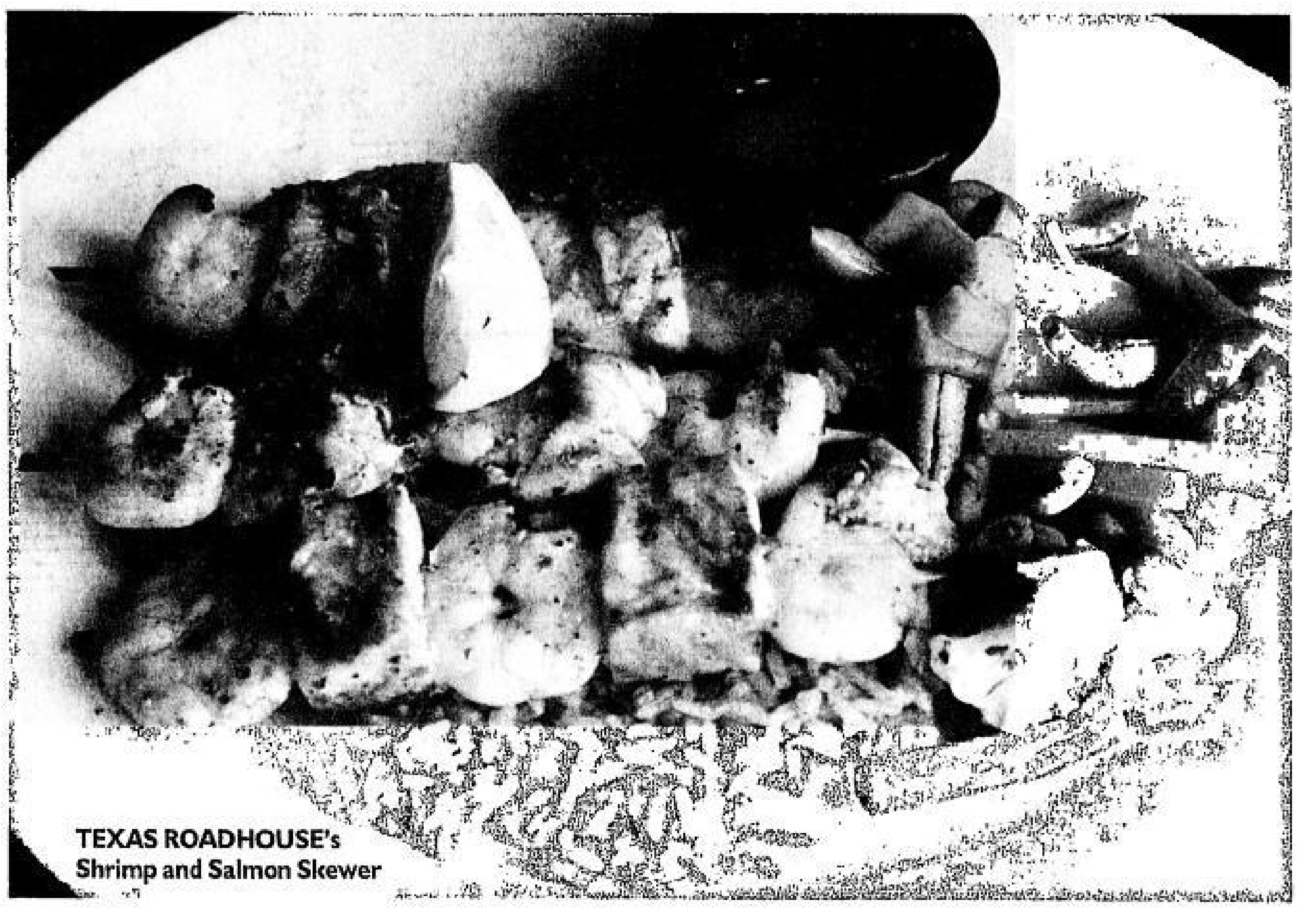
CALL OUR ONE-STOP SUPER CENTERS FOR FITNESS, SKIN, BODY AND FACE.

FITNESS HOTLINE: 536-3333
SKIN HOTLINE: 525-8771
MOBILE NUMBER: 091-SLIMMERS (75466377)
www.slimmersworld.com.ph inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ADRIATICO-MALATE May 5360619/5259891 0921 4669423
ALABANG Gemma 8090395/7750587 0918 3912510
BINONDO Razel 2421312/2420728 0917 8224399
CALOOCAN Olive 3657653 0915 8804668
CEBU Juna 231 3254 0915 8797217
GREENHILLS Eleanor 7266505/7261526 0917 8261204
H.V.DELA COSTA Emily 8140138/8140151 0928 2107247
LEGASPI VILL. Lani 8938935 0928 9719938
MEGAMALL Ruby 6313869/6377543 0916 2479753
PASAY ROAD Maan 8871335/8873530 0915 6893088
PASIG Abbie 6815333/6473816 0928 4763108
SM NORTH Michelle 9295429/9264215 0905 2690717
SUBIC Beth 2526514 0928 6712299


GERONIMO'S Seafood Pasta Marinara

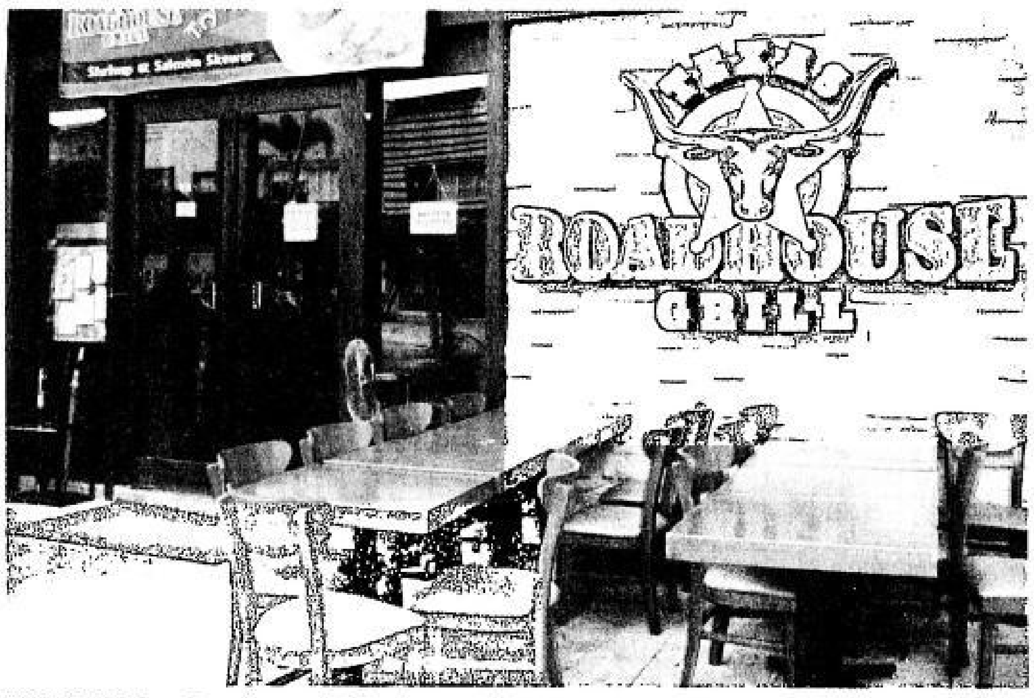
THE GREAT Ribeye


TEXAS ROADHOUSE's Shrimp and Salmon Skewer

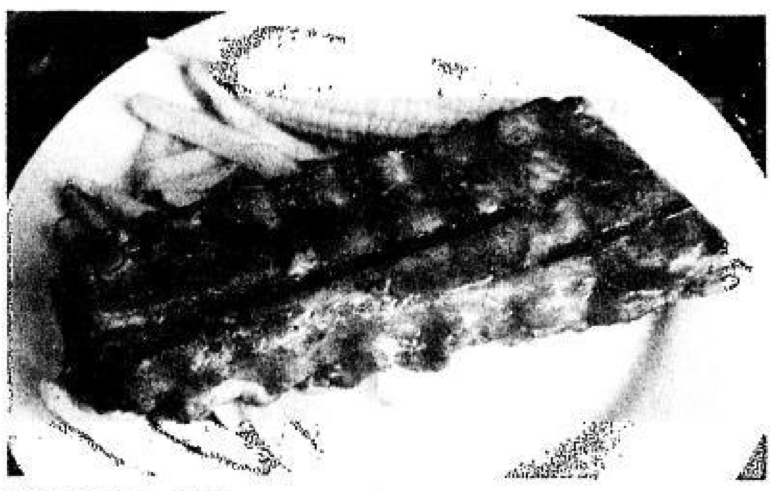
Not business as usual

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Rudy Esperas

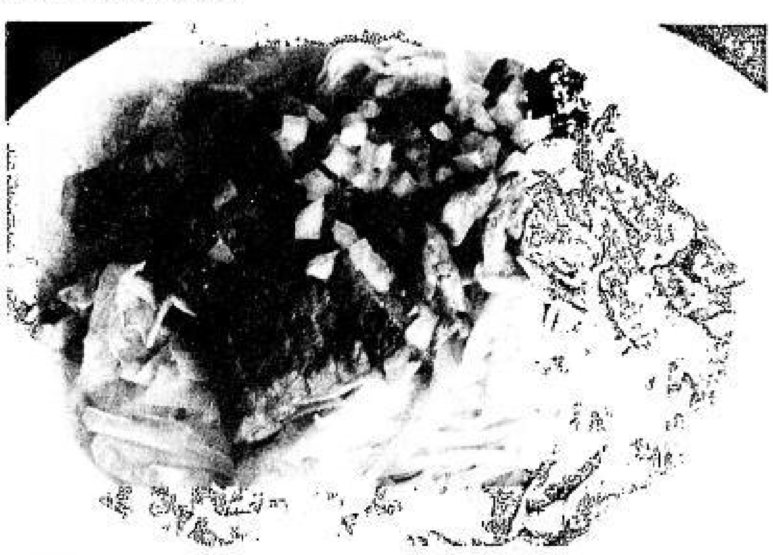
> Though the places with familiar names are decidedly looking more spruced up, dining at Bonifacio High Street is more casual than dress-up

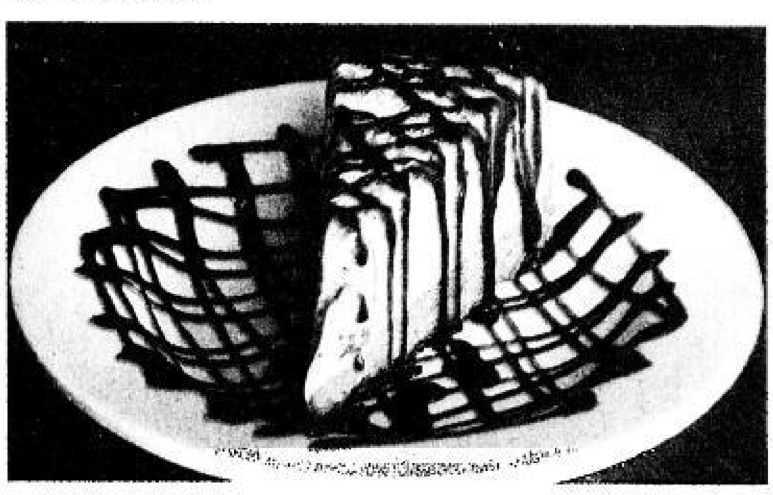


THOUGH Texas Roadhouse is debuting on High Street, it is run by people with extensive experience in the food business.


THE BABY Back Ribs

JESSE James Sampler


FAJITA Beef Salad


A FANCY dessert from Texas Roadhouse Grill

IF YOU ARE SETTING UP IN A PLACE called High Street, your usual just will not do.

That certainly seems to have animated dining establishments that have managed to get into one of the few coveted spots in Bonifacio High Street in the Global City developed by the Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation led and managed by Ayala Land Inc. and Evergreen Holdings of the Campos Group, in partnership with Bases Conversion and Development Authority.

Most of the eateries have familiar names but they certainly look distinctly different.

One notable exception is Texas Roadhouse Grill. The High Street place is its first. But if the eatery does not look like it is suffering from birth pangs, it is because it is run by people who have plenty of experience in operating restaurants (the Am-Phil Food Concepts, Inc. is the local franchisee of the chain Chilis Grill & Bar).

The grill house offers diners a taste of Americana not just in the food it serves but in the portions it offers.

No wonder Laine T. de Jesus, marketing head, says a visit to Texas Roadhouse, which opened only in March, is usually a group project, in a manner of speaking. With servings big enough for sharing by two even three people, the restaurant gets office crowds on weekdays, *barkadas* in the evenings and families on weekends.

Texas Roadhouse's bestsellers are Santa Fe Nachos and Jesse James Sampler, for starters, and Geronimo's Seafood Pasta Marinara, for main dish. But the menu is extensive enough to accommodate vegetarians, seafood lovers and red meat aficionados. Some notables are the Fajita Beef Salad, Oriental Chicken Salad, Shrimp & Salmon Skewer, Baby Back Ribs and, for dessert, Mighty Oreo Mud Pie and Cowboy Chocolate Cake.

Casual dining

Though the places with familiar names are decidedly looking more spruced up than ever, dining at High Street is more casual than dress-up. Brothers' Burger brings its signature burger, cheese steak, crispy and grilled chicken, as well as the recently introduced salads, pasta and soup, to the small but neatly laid out High Street outlet.

The chain is probably the only one offering the innovative lamb burger. Arlet Fritz Pia C. Galang, marketing officer, says their Brothers' Lamb Burger comes with pesto sauce and feta cheese.

Brothers' Burger makes sure people know about this by having it prominently painted on the walls. It is also packaged in the Dad's Power lunch offering. For women, there is the Sisters' Snack consisting of Crispy Chicken Sandwich and Green Salad.

An LCD screen mounted on a wall provides customers more than just the menu. Available to advertisers, the screen carries announcements about job opportunities not just at the food chain but other establishments, a welcome amenity for people looking for a job or wanting a change.

TGIFriday's showcases its new look—a shift from vintage Americana to a modern classic style—at High Street. Diners in the outlet, which has Daisy Valencia as general manager and Bing L. Servilla as restaurant manager, are greeted by the "King" himself.

A huge wax likeness of Elvis Presley in his signature white jump suit studded with rhinestones and with a guitar in hand stands outside the door looking like he is ready to get "all shook up" when asked.

Inside, though the menu features the familiar favorites, the '20s, '30s and '40s decor has been replaced with contemporary light fixtures, stainless-steel railings and decor themes reminiscent of the '60s, '70s and '80s. Musical and sports icons and symbols of those decade are prominently displayed.

Also sporting subtle changes is Starbucks Coffee. The American coffee chain has the advantage of being located right across from low fountains, making outdoor seating more attractive for guests.

The place carries the same menu that has made it popular among people who want their coffee and teas flavored, as well as those who want to stick to the basics.

20th branch

Seattle's Best Coffee at High Street is the chain's 20th branch in the country, according to owner Frederick Siy.

He says the chain puts as much emphasis on its coffees as on milk shakes that are intended "for people who do not take caffeine."

The chain tries to come up with a new flavor every two months or every quarter, their latest being avocado, he says.

Siy, who visits each of the various outlets at least once a month, says most new flavors originate from the mother company in the United States.

The local franchisee can propose each own concoction, subject to approval of the US company. Siy says the Americans recognize that the locals know the market better so, as long as the products stay within the image of the company, they generally gain approval.

Products are kept on the menu or withdrawn depending on the consumers' response, he says.

Another familiar name will be added to High Street's roster of oldies but goodies when Italianni's opens its 10th branch tomorrow. The restaurant will be presenting its new lineup, the Bravissimo Menu.

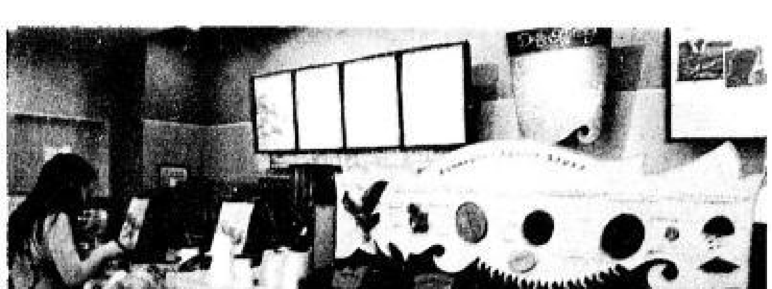
For those who want to put together a simple meal using ready-made ingredients Healthy Options has organic pastas, sauces, vinegars, oils and other wholesome ingredients, as well as snack items.

People who want their four-legged best friends to eat healthy, too, can also find a lot of doggie treats in this branch.

STARBUCKS COFFEE
SITTING outside Starbucks becomes a delight with the low fountains in front.

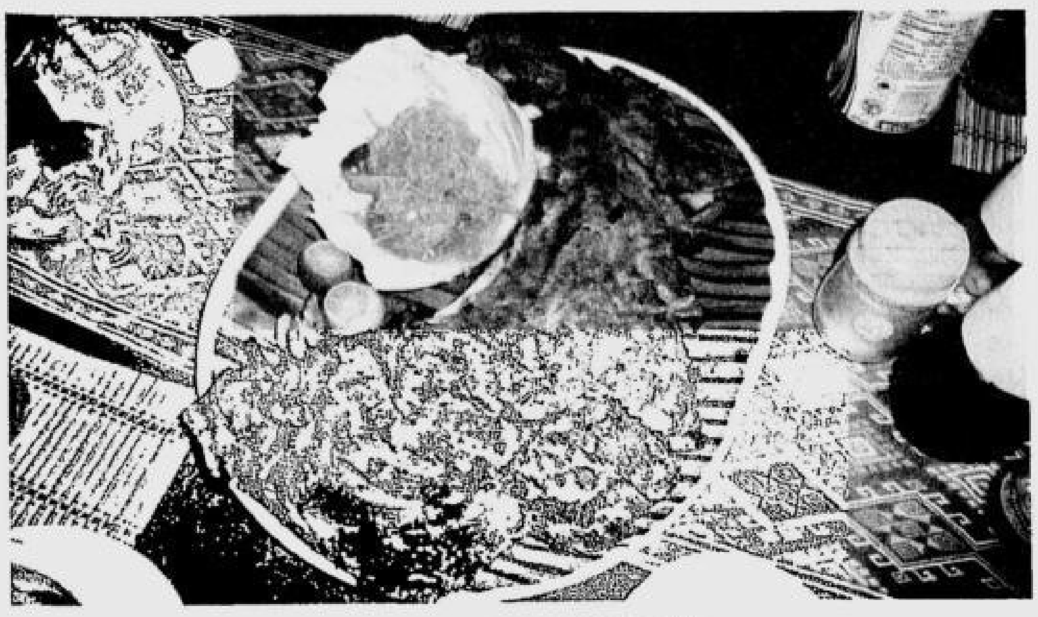
SEATTLE'S BEST COFFEE
SEATTLE'S Best Coffee tries to have something new every two or three months.

TGI FRIDAY'S
IN HERE
THE "KING" seems all ready to rock and roll for TGIFriday's customers.


STARBUCKS Coffee brings the products that have it a household name to High Street.

BROTHERS BURGER
BROTHERS Burger is probably the only place in town serving lamb burger.

healthy options
HEALTHY Options takes on an "olde worlde" charm at High Street.



TUNA jaw or *panga* grilled to perfection

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

A 'tuna' of a time in GenSan

HOW DOES ONE PREPARE for a tuna festival? By not eating tuna in any form before the event.

So scratch the sashimi, tuna *panga* (jaw) and belly *inihaw* and the canned versions from the menu for a while. And a good thing, too, because tuna in many variations was what we had during a three-day stay at GenSan.

GenSan is short for General Paulino Santos, who led the first group of immigrants from the Ilocos into this southernmost Mindanao area by the Sarangani bay.

I prefer its old name, Dadiangas, after a shrub that used to grow wild in the area. You can still see businesses and schools that use Dadiangas in their names. So does pool player Leonardo Andam, who is from there and is known by the moniker Dodong Dadiangas.

Criselda Macíon, president of the city's Tourism Association, told us there was a GenSan Tuna Chef contest that we had to judge and that we would have a taste of "Sashimi Nites," free tuna sashimi during the week-long festival.

The culinary competition was held at the Mindanao Polytechnic College. The judges, Myrna Segismundo, Jill Sandique, Raul Ramos, Booj Supe and I, revised the rules to include other seafood as the main ingredient.

Even for dessert

Students and professionals competed in their own categories to produce an appetizer, a main course and a dessert. Sometimes the contestants got carried away, using tuna even in the dessert either because the new rules did not sink in or they thought that by using tuna in all the courses, they would get more points.

After the judging, what was right or wrong with each entry was discussed. Recipes were also scrutinized for how they were written, especially whether ingredients and procedures were complete.

Judges also learned from the exercise—this time the merits of wrapping food in *anahaw* leaves (keeping in moisture), the local names of basil (*sangig*) and the small taro or *gabi* (*karlang*), and that cooking with coconut milk is called *nilabog* (*guinataan*).

Members of the association, mostly hotel and restaurant owners, hosted our lunches and dinners.

Marasa Grill of Macíon was the first lunch for our hungry group that left Manila in the morning without a proper breakfast. We could not wait to dig into the *kinilaw* of *malasugue* (marlin), *imbao* (big clam) soup, salad of boiled vegetables and seaweeds, and grilled tuna *panga*, squid and prawns.

Family Country Homes served good *panga* as well. Saranggani Heights was visited during the daytime for the view of the bay and then for dinner and some lessons on gardening. We learned that some varieties of *gumamela* were named after Filipino superstars (did you know that?).

We were also treated to their best *lechon manok*, which was indeed so flavorful we almost finished the whole lot. And, on our last day, it was lunch at the air-conditioned Orange with a bistro ambience for a mix of Thai cooking and great *kare-kare*.

Various cuts

But we came for a tuna festival and we learned something about this big fish that contributed so much to the economic life of GenSan.

We visited one tuna supplier where we learned the various cuts. There were local names like *bagaybay* for the fat strip, *bihod* for the eggs and *kuyog* for the tendon.

Cuts that the Japanese favored were given names like sushi bar and saku bar. There were drumsticks, which were the ends; crazy cut, one of the non-sashimi pieces; cubes, ground, fillet and tail that were either boneless or bone-in.

Best of all, we were shown how to prepare a huge fish for sashimi. James Lacaba was our sashimi chef that night. He reduced the huge tuna into the choicest cuts for us, slicing each piece into red squares.

First, off with the head, the part from where the *panga* comes. Then the tail. At this point Lacaba showed us the tail flesh to demonstrate that this tuna was not of prime quality because the color of the meat was not even, a condition he termed "rainbow."

Holding his sharp knife expertly, he cut through the fish lengthwise, separating the four fillet parts. This involved removing the spine at the center and other organs in the belly. But these parts did not go to waste as they were put away for so many kinds of cooking—*sinigang, inasal, paksiw*.

The Sashimi Nites included free sashimi with every purchase of P100 at any of the food and drink booths in the fair area. Our own prime cuts were tasted where we dined that evening.

We did hear the disturbing news that catching tuna was not as easy as it used to be and the boats had to go farther out. Pretty soon there might not be enough. So what will happen to the canneries in the area and the jobs they generate?

Still, those away from Mindanao will always think that the country's second biggest island is a bountiful place. Yes, but most of that bounty is not tasted there because they are brought to Manila and to the world. Our hosts made us laugh when they told us that what they got from their wet markets were heads of prawn and *bangus* because the bodies had been exported elsewhere.

And the tuna that James cut was third-rate because the topmost quality were shipped out to the bigger, better-paying markets.

E-mail the author at pinoycentral04@yahoo.com

> We learned something about the big fish that contributed so much to the economic life of the city formerly known as Dadiangas

PREPARING the huge tuna for sashimi

September 12th to 16th
FURNitalia presents...
five days for 5 YEARS

sale

30th Street Corner Rizal
Drive, Crescent Park,
West Bonifacio
Global City
8191887

BROTHERS BURGER
Satisfy your urge!

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!
1/2 OFF the POUND
P129.00
P64.50!*

ALABANG
Hobbies of ASIA
Paseo de STA. ROSA
Camp JOHN HAY

ONLY at the following Brothers Burger outlets:
ALABANG • HOBBIES OF ASIA
• PASEO DE STA. ROSA
• CAMP JOHN HAY
Mark your calendar on
September 14 from 11am - 9pm !
Visit our website at
www.brothersburger.com.ph
for franchise opportunities and catering services

* FOR DINE-IN AND TAKE OUT ORDERS ONLY
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3186 Series of 2007

BROTHERS BURGER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

While anniversaries are usually celebrated with a toast of wine in a romantic dinner, Brothers Burger is celebrating its anniversary with a twist! On September 14, 2007, Brothers Burger is offering its customers a 50% discount on the 1/2 pound burger particularly in the four celebrating outlets: Hobbies of Asia on Macapagal Avenue in Manila; Westgate Center at the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa; Paseo de Sta. Rosa in Laguna, and Mile Hi Center at Camp John Hay in Baguio City.

Because of their anniversary, Brothers' famous *half-pound burgers* will be enjoyed at half the price, from P129 each to P64.50, yet retaining their usual hugeness, freshness, and deliciousness. The 50% discount is a one day offer only so hurry and visit the 4 celebrating outlets from 11am to 9pm for dine in and take out only.

The Brothers Signature Pasta Relaunch

The anniversary is also celebrated with the relaunching of Brothers' Signature Pasta in addition to the wide range of Brothers Burger products. The Brothers Signature Pasta consists of three delectable choices in combination with Hamburgers and other product offerings:

CREAMY CHICKEN SUPREME
Dressed in white cream dressing, topped with sauteed chicken chunks and button mushrooms; drizzled with Parmesan cheese.

POMODORO WITH MEATBALLS –While the familiar spaghetti is usually red with ready-made tomato sauce, this dish strikes a great difference with Brothers' homemade red sauce out of stewed whole tomatoes, enriched with beefy meatballs.

CREAMY PESTO WITH VEGETABLES – Brothers' colorful vegetarian dish for dieters and health-buffs. Topped with savory grilled veggie slices (zucchini, carrots and eggplant), this pasta is dressed with Brothers' homemade white cream enhanced with pesto — a healthful sauce made of the nutritious blend of fresh basil, garlic, olive oil, pine nuts and grated cheese. Each dish goes with a freshly baked herbed bread.

In answer to customers' constant demand, the Brothers Signature Pasta is out to prove that good things deserve a second serving!

For more information about franchise opportunities and catering services, log on to www.brothersburger.com.ph.

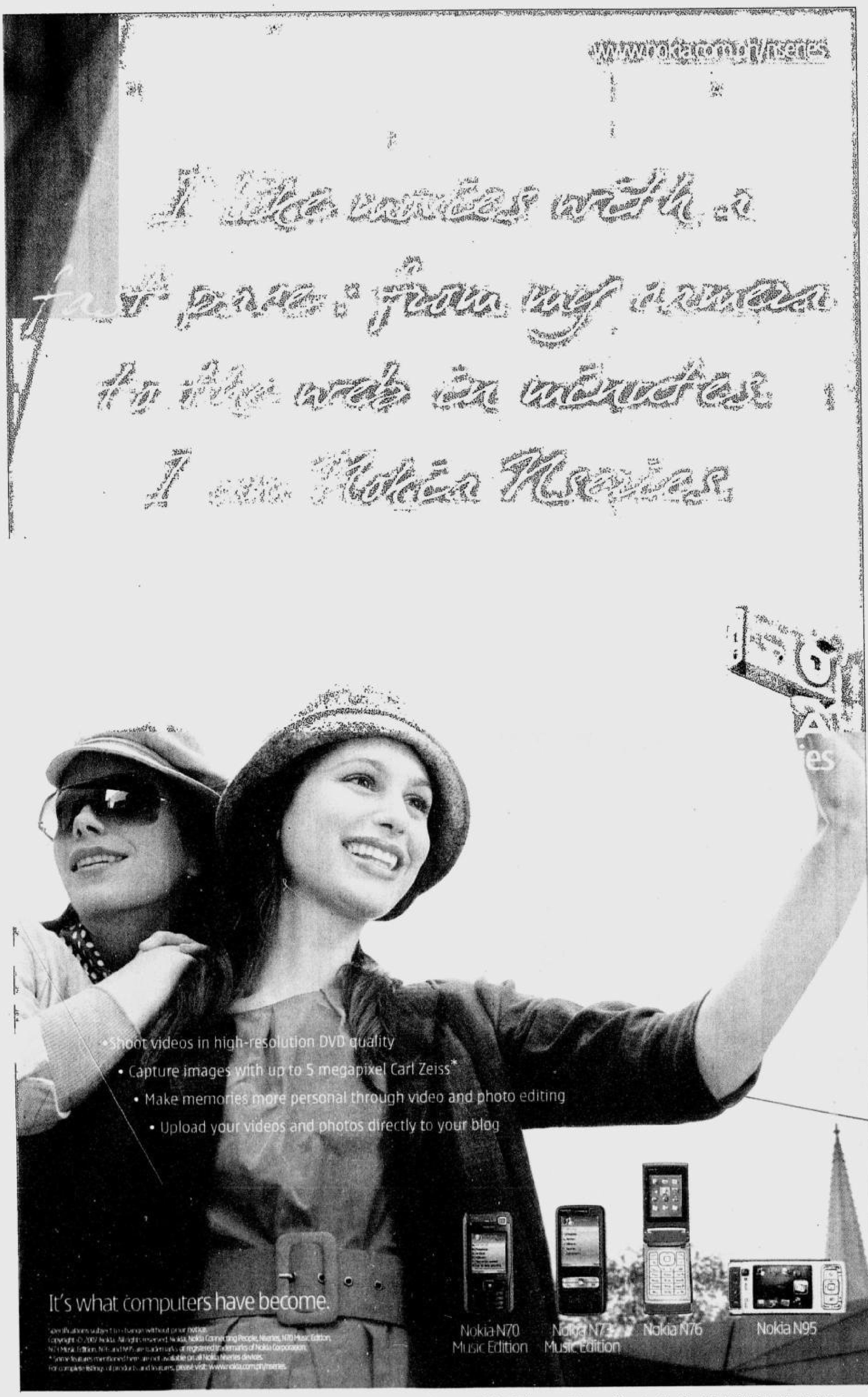
Pomodoro with Meatballs

Freshly baked mooncakes

DELIGHTFUL FISH FILLET
Food is best shared with friends and family. Italianni's huge servings make it easy for people to bond while enjoying a hearty meal. At the Manhattan-style Italian dining establishment, people can share traditional pizza and pasta, Blueberry Panna Cotta, refreshing fruit smoothies and specialty dishes like the Corsican Steamed Fish Fillet with Ginger, accompanied by olives and anchovy pasta for a light but satisfying meal. Italianni's Eastwood City branch is located at One Luna Lifestyle Center (tel. 6830828, 6380780 or 0917-8EWCITY).

HONG KONG'S premium Maxim's mooncakes are available at Peking Garden Restaurant (tel. 8179066/ 67), an affiliate of Maxim's. The mooncake is available in three flavors—with lotus seeds and two eggs, with white lotus seeds and two eggs, and mixed nuts with two eggs. Ideal for gift-giving, the mooncakes come in beautiful and elegant packages. Peking Garden is at the 2/L of Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City.

GUMBO offers creole and cajun dishes such as the restaurant's bestsellers Seafood/ Chicken Jambalaya, Crawfish Etouffe, Cajun Shrimps Kebab, Louisiana Crab Cakes, Seafood Creole, Cajun Blackened Salmon and the house specialty Seafood or Chicken Gumbo, among others (5560238 or 4420106).


www.nokia.com.ph/nseries
• Shoot videos in high-resolution DVD quality
• Capture images with up to 5 megapixel Carl Zeiss*
• Make memories more personal through video and photo editing
• Upload your videos and photos directly to your blog
It's what computers have become.
Nokia N70 Music Edition
Nokia N73 Music Edition
Nokia N76
Nokia N95

Available at the following Nokia Stores nationwide: Greenbelt 1, Glorietta Digital Xchange, Tomas Morato, Festival Mall, SM City North Edsa, Gaisano Davao, Gateway Mall, Robinsons Manila, Robinsons Galleria, SM Davao, Tacloban City, Lim Ket Kai Center CDO, Alabang Town Center, SM Mall of Asia, Podium, Greenhills, SM City Cebu, SM Iloilo, SM Bacolod, Rockwell, Bonifacio High Street, Dagupan, Trinoma, SM Batangas

Make sure your new Nokia Multimedia Computer is protected by a 12-month warranty on parts and services from Nokia Care. Buy only at authorized Nokia retailers.
Visit www.nokia.com.ph to check the retail store nearest you. For more information, text NOKIA PHONE N70 ME, or N73 ME, or N76, or N95 to 2910. P2.50 for Smart and Globe subscribers, P2.00 for Sun subscribers

DINING OUT

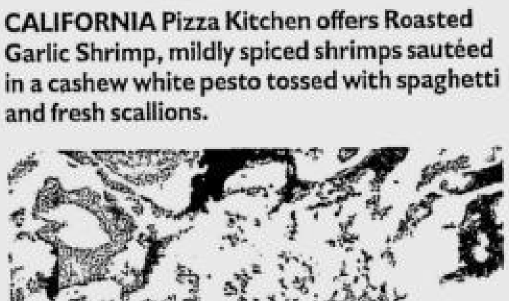
LUK YUEN NOODLE HOUSE IS OFFERING freshly baked special mooncakes. In singles (P75) and attractive gift box (P280), the mooncakes are now selling at the following Luk Yuen outlets: Greenhills (tel. 7212620), SM Megamall Bldg. B (tel. 6334396), Glorietta 2 (tel. 8671394), Cash & Carry (tel. 8870687), Magallanes (tel. 8536966), and Alabang Town Center (tel. 7724967).

KIMPURA Japanese Restaurant now offers a special Lunch Feast menu. Available at budget-friendly prices, the menu gives diners 14 choices. Each main dish is served with pickle appetizer, *kobachi*, mixed sashimi, *miso* soup, steamed rice, and iced tea, iced coffee or fresh fruits. The choices include *tori* teriyaki, *sanma*, cold noodles, *gyudon*, tempura, *tonkatsu*, beef *yakiniku*, beef teppanyaki, *nigiri* sushi, tuna belly, salmon butteryaki, *chirashi*, salmon *ikura* and *unagi*. Lunch sets are available Monday-Saturday. Kimpura is at 2/L, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City (tel. 8924456); and Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan City (tel. 7218816).

SUPER BOWL of China has added four new dishes to its extensive menu of authentic Cantonese cuisine. Its Limited Time Offers (LTO) are available Sept. 16-March 31. They include the 5-colored Shredded Beef, Beancurd Stuffed with Ground Pork, Shredded Pork with Bean Sauce, and White Fungus with Almond Cream in Papaya for dessert. Sotanghon with Minced Pork, Fish Fillet in Light Soy and Spicy Taosi Sauce and Pork Strips with Kangkong and Chinese Bagoong have become regular menu items.

BURGOO (tel. 9277396, 8981815, 6875565, 7263578, 9136112, 5560091, 6336256) offers Extra Supreme Nachos. Other must-try dishes are the Fried Calamari, Buffalo Chicken Wings, Mozzarella Sticks, Sta. Fe Springs Rolls, Hamburgoo, Grilled Pork Chops, Fish and Chips, Chicken Fajitas, among others.

CALIFORNIA Pizza Kitchen offers Roasted Garlic Shrimp, mildly spiced shrimps sautéed in a cashew white pesto tossed with spaghetti and fresh scallions.



BLACKBEARD'S SEAFOOD ISLAND has opened in Eastwood Libis. The restaurant offers seafood dishes including Crabs a la Carte, Fresh Visayan Blue Crabs, California Crabs and Crabs by the Basket. Other specialty dishes are Kinilaw, Oysters & Clams, Barbecue and Deep-fried Trippings. The all-time favorite Boodle Feast, a complete set meal of grilled seafood, is also available (9135701, 8867692 and 9132694).

PALOMA Modern Spanish Bistro (6/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall, tel. 9104096) features Spanish dishes by chef JA Ventura. It offers Manchego Cheese Triangles, Ostrich Salpicao, Smoked Salmon on Black Rice and Braised Crispy Quail. The restaurant's bestseller is Paella Paloma. Other favorites are Beef Salpicao with Grilled Prawns, Lengua Sevillana and Bacalao on Pilaf.

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

ENTERTAINMENT

edback: inquirer e ty/message to 2207 283 (Smart) or emai rtainment@inquire

INSIDE

- **Britney's bod in bikini is 'sooo not hot'**/D6
- **Pauleen's, Jed's blog entries** Dollywood /D6

"LUST, Caution" winning crew (from left) at the just-concluded 64th Venice Film Festival: US actor Wang Leehom, Taiwanese director Ang Lee, Chinese actress Tang Wei, Hong Kong actor Tony Leung and Chinese actress Joan Chen. AP

Ang Lee bows to China

Self-censors award-winning movie

BEIJING—TAIWANESE director Ang Lee axed 30 minutes from his award-winning erotic spy thriller "Lust, Caution" to pass China's censorship rules and make it child friendly, state media reported Tuesday.

Lee, who on Saturday picked up his second Venice Film Festival Golden Lion for Best Picture for his new film, was told by Chinese authorities he had to cut out steamy scenes for mainland audiences, Xinhua news agency said.

"Authorities told me there was no film rating system on the mainland so they let me cut it," Xinhua quoted Lee as saying.

After the cuts, the film, originally two hours and 36 minutes long, became "relatively clean", Lee was quoted as saying. "Children [will be able] to watch it."

The movie, a tense drama set in Japanese-occupied Shanghai in the 1940s, has been given the NC-17 rating in the US, banning viewers under 17.

Still 'reasonable'

Lee said he "took pains" to preserve the integrity of the film: "For a viewer who has not watched the full version, the short version remains reasonable."

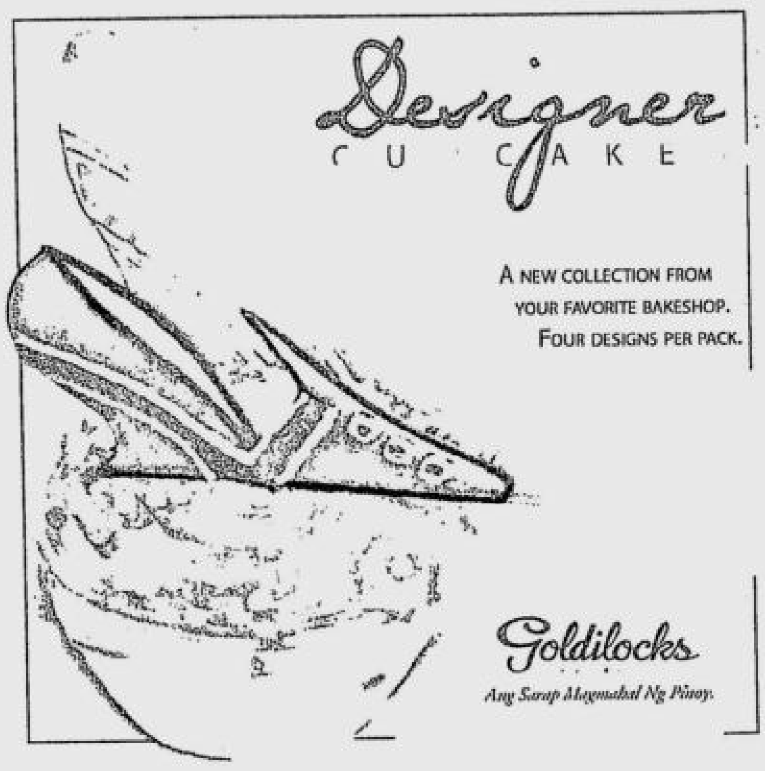
Some violent scenes had also been cut, Xinhua said.

The film opens in China on Oct. 26, a month later than its schedule opening date around the world. *AFP*

Just like a H'wood star

CHEER FACTOR

FORMER US PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER JOINED the ranks of movie stars at the world preem of "Man from Plains," his biopic directed by Jonathan Demme ("Silence of the Lambs," "Philadelphia") at the Toronto film festival. While thousands of Clooney and Pitt fans crushed barricades around their hotel, a smaller, but duly awestruck group gathered in front of a local cinema hoping to get the Nobel peace prize winner's autograph. *AFP*



Designer Cupcake

A new collection from your favorite bakeshop. Four designs per pack.

Goldilocks
Ang Sarap Magmahal Ng Pinoy.

up next at SM Southmall Las Piñas UGF Centermall

Warner Music Philippines presents

Rivermaya

Album Tour
Sept. 14 • Fri • 5pm

Cory Quirino
Wellness Tour
Sept. 16 • Sun
Mall Hours

"IT'S a private matter." ROMY HOMILLADA

KC mum on Lino Cayetano

By Marinel R. Cruz

KC CONCEPCION considers her relationship with television director Lino Cayetano "a very private matter," and remains tight-lipped about it.

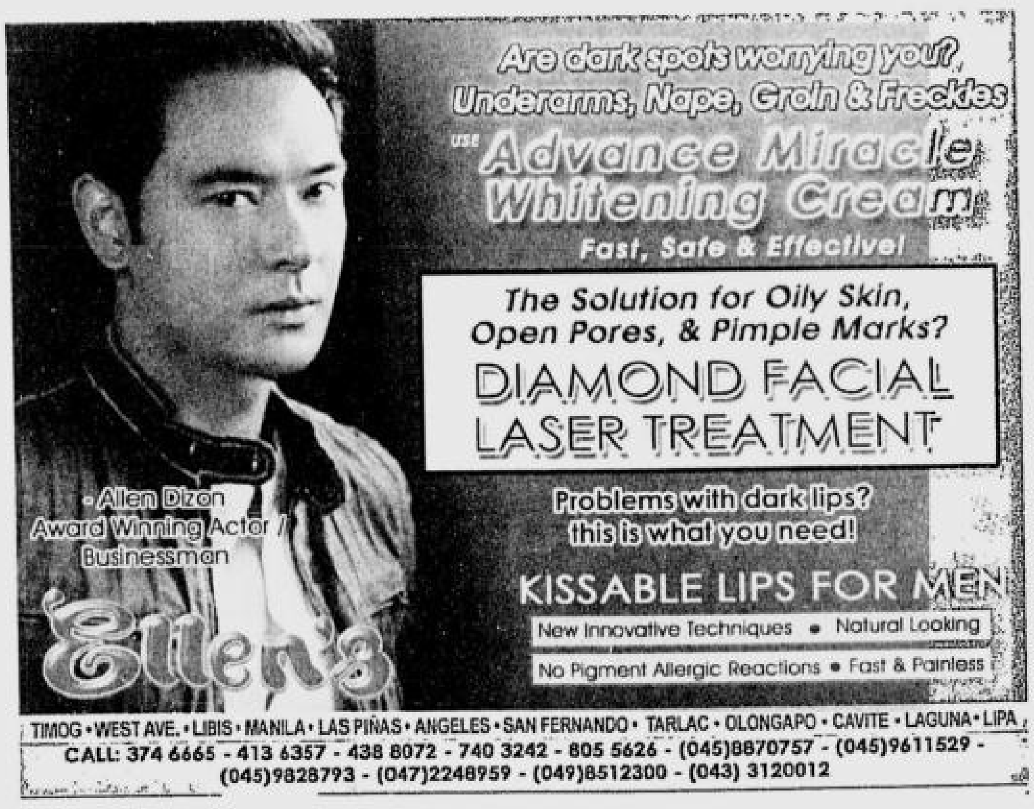
However, speaking at the launch of her ABS-CBN TV program, "KC From Paris to 'Pinas" (airing Sept. 23, 10:30 p.m.), KC told the entertainment press that her suitor was *"sobrang okey."*

She denied rumors linking her to Billy Crawford, Rico Blanco and Gian Magdangal.

Billy courted her and spent time with her in Paris but, KC said, they never became an item.

Gian Magdangal—whom she worked with in theater—was "like an older brother."

As for former Rivermaya frontman Rico, KC said they were "close." She did not elaborate.



Are dark spots worrying you? Underarms, Nape, Groin & Freckles
use Advance Miracle Whitening Cream
Fast, Safe & Effective!

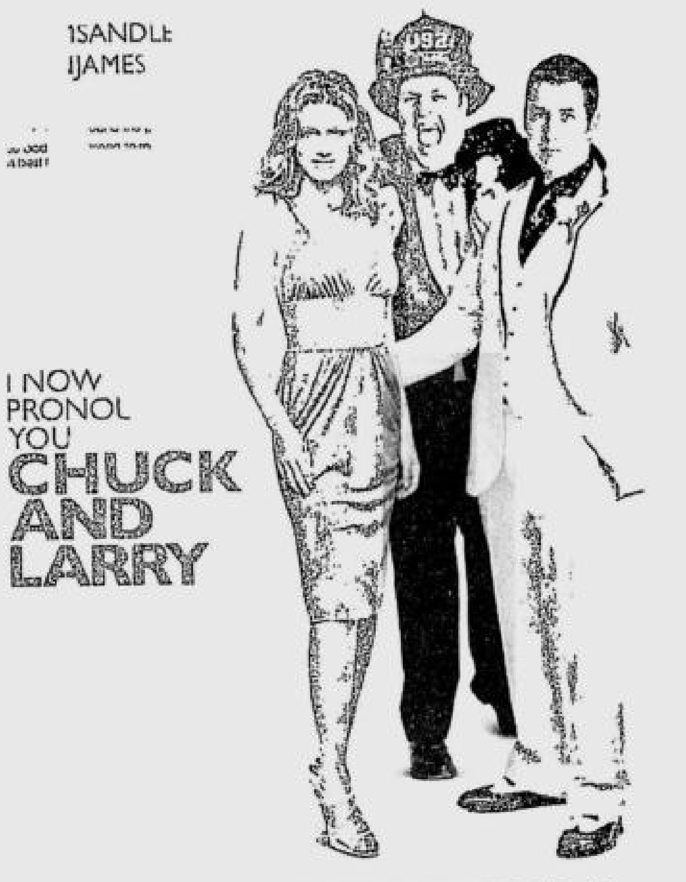
The Solution for Oily Skin, Open Pores, & Pimple Marks?
DIAMOND FACIAL LASER TREATMENT

Problems with dark lips? this is what you need!
KISSABLE LIPS FOR MEN
New Innovative Techniques • Natural Looking
No Pigment Allergic Reactions • Fast & Painless

- Allen Dizon
Award Winning Actor / Businessman

Ellen's

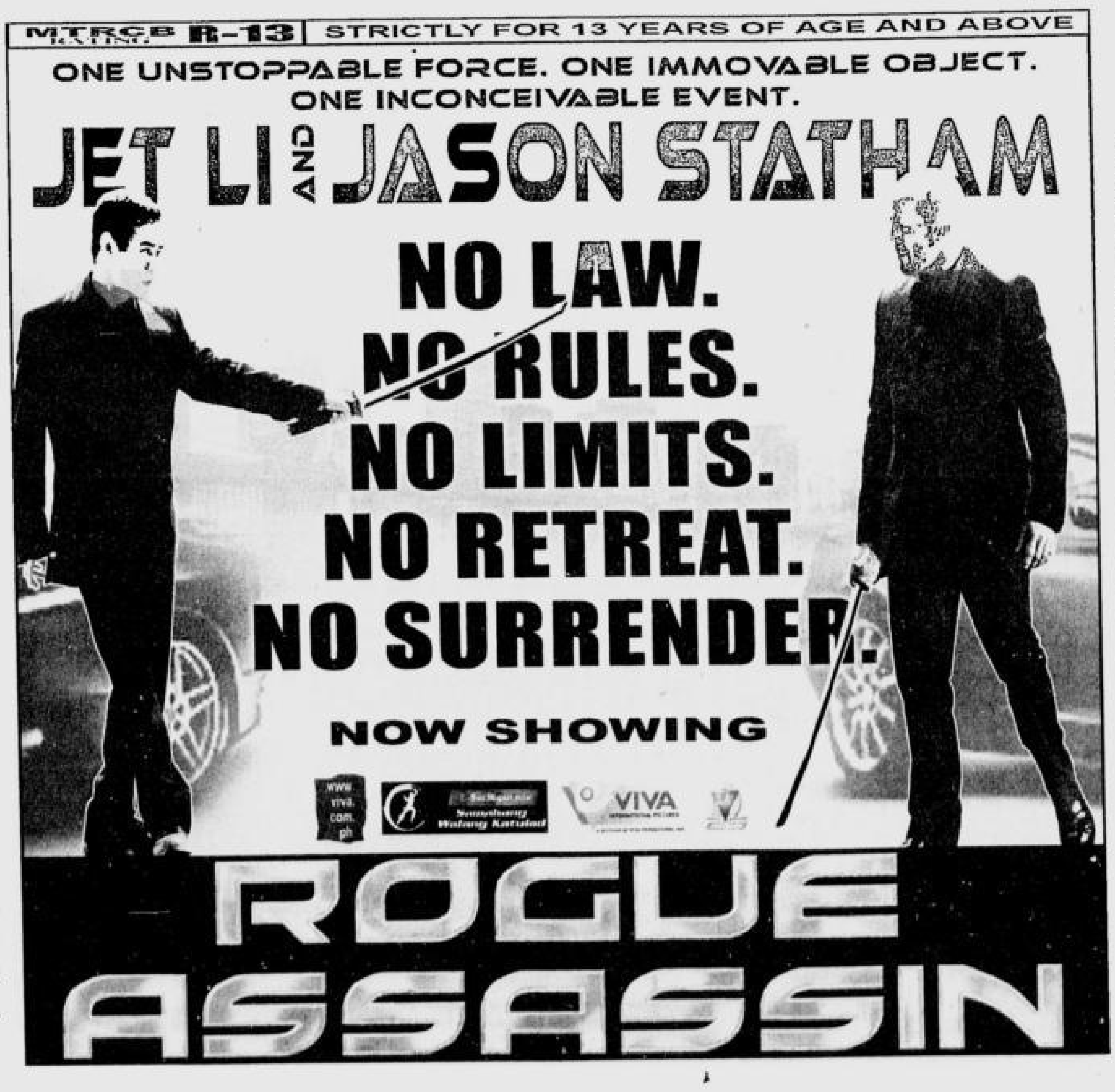
TIMOG • WEST AVE. • LIBIS • MANILA • LAS PIÑAS • ANGELES • SAN FERNANDO • TARLAC • OLONGAPO • CAVITE • LAGUNA • LIPA
CALL: 374 6665 - 413 6357 - 438 8072 - 740 3242 - 805 5626 - (045)8870757 - (045)9611529 - (045)9828793 - (047)2248959 - (049)8512300 - (043) 3120012



SANDLE
JAMES

I NOW PRONOL YOU CHUCK AND LARRY

IN THEATERS SEPTEMBER 19



MTRCB RATING R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

ONE UNSTOPPABLE FORCE. ONE IMMOVABLE OBJECT.
ONE INCONCEIVABLE EVENT.

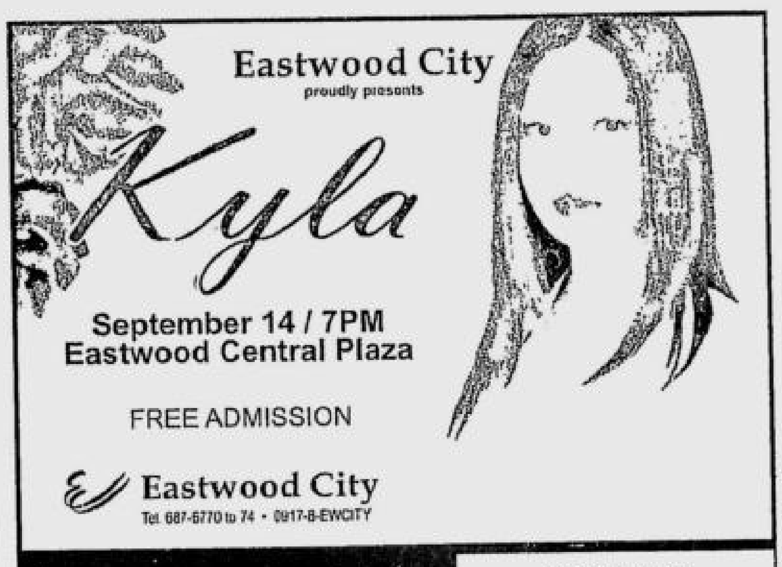
JET LI AND JASON STATHAM

NO LAW.
NO RULES.
NO LIMITS.
NO RETREAT.
NO SURRENDER.

NOW SHOWING

www.viva.com.ph
VIVA

ROGUE ASSASSIN



Eastwood City proudly presents
Kyla
September 14 / 7PM
Eastwood Central Plaza
FREE ADMISSION
Eastwood City
Tel. 687-6770 to 74 • 0917-8-EWCITY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text eastwood and send to 2948 for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	THE BRAVE ONE	12:40, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:05 PG-13
2	DISTURBIA	8:35, 11:00 PG-13
3	UNDERDOG	2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45, 10:55 G
4	INVASION	12:45, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10.40 PG-13

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 THE BRAVE ONE • THX
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 indieSine: LIGAW LIHAM
4 UNDERDOG
5 FOSTER CHILD
6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
7 DISTURBIA
8 DAY WATCH
NANCY DREW
9 EVAN ALMIGHTY
SKIN WALKERS
10 1408

Ligaw Liham

Sometime in the 70's, in a small town in Negros, the post office simply stops its operations. No one knew about this except for the postman and his caretaker. When Nor, finds out about this secret, he finds an opportunity to sway to the dance of love when he assumes the identity of another man. Nor reads the letters hidden in an old warehouse and takes over the pen of Karen's husband who was working in Saigon. Soon after, a correspondence between Nor and Karen takes place. And Nor finds himself truly falling in love.

showing on
SEPTEMBER 12 to 20
Robinsons Movieworld
Galleria

INDIESINE

Ligaw Liham

ERMITA

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 FOSTER CHILD
3 DISTURBIA
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
5 UNDERDOG
6 THE BRAVE ONE
7 SKINWALKERS
1408

DRESS 'EM UP UNDERDOG STYLE

Bring your cute pet dogs in a superhero costume and get special prizes.

**Registration Forms are now available at all Handyman Do-it-Best Home Center Outlets*

BOW WOW FUN SHOW

BOW WOW Fun Show is on SEPT. 15 (Saturday) • 2PM
Orosa Atrium,
Robinsons Place, Manila

Showing on SEPT. 12
MTRCB Rating: G

METRO EAST

1 UNDERDOG
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 DAYWATCH
5 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
6 1408
7 DISTURBIA
8 RUSH HOUR 3
SKIN WALKERS

NOVALICHES

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 DAYWATCH

PIONEER

1 ROGUE ASSASSIIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 SIGNOS
2 UNDERDOG
3 SINKING Of JAPAN
4 THE BRAVE ONE

LIPA

(043) 757-3664 / (043) 312-5870

1 UNDERDOG
2 THE INVASION
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 RUSH HOUR 3

DASMARIÑAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 SIGNOS
4 DAYWATCH

IMUS

Ticket Price P100 (046) 875-3838 / (046) 471-8188

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 DAYWATCH

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P 90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 HAIRSPRAY
4 DON'T LOOK BACK

TARLAC

1 SINKING of JAPAN
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SIGNOS

STARMILLS

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 SIGNOS
4 HAIRSPRAY
5 DON'T LOOK BACK
6 RUSH HOUR 3

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 UNDERDOG
2 1408
3 THE INVASION
4 SINKING of JAPAN
5 PLANET TERROR
6 SIGNOS

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 UNDERDOG
2 1408
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 THE INVASION
5 THE LAST KING of SCOTLAND
6 SIGNOS

FEEDBACK

From Andy (miles098@yahoo.com):

This is about "Haw Ang." I was not involved in the project and I'm not an important person. This is just to inform you that there were two directors and two groups who made that movie. There were management problems and the first group was not properly credited. Sigrid Bernardo directed 90 percent of the trailer, as well as 70 percent of the finished product. But she was mentioned only at the bottom of the credits. I hope this helps Sigrid and her group, who are being beleaguered (sic) by the producers.

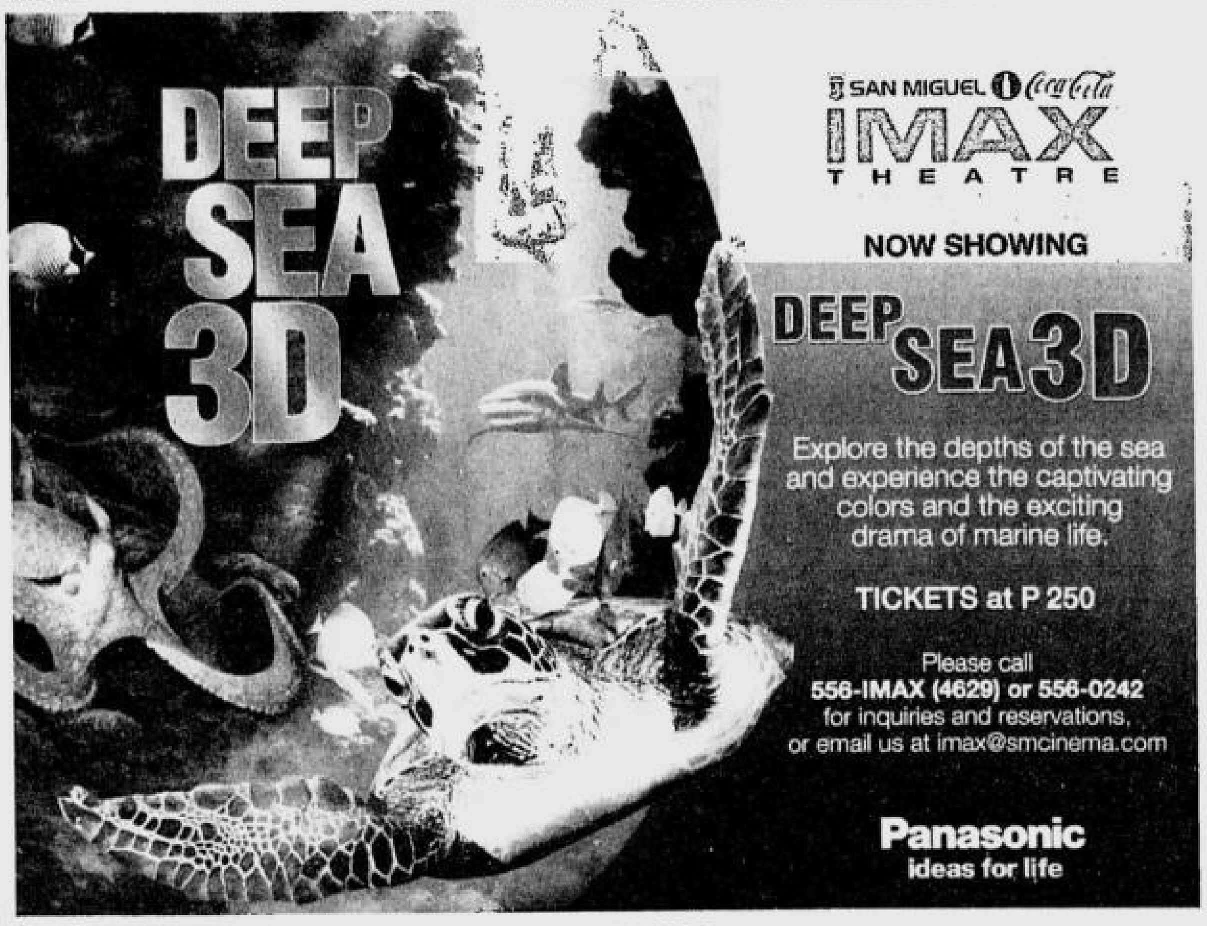
SM CINEMA
SHARE A MOVIE WITH A LOVED ONE

movietime SHOWTIME

VISIT WWW.SMCINEMA.COM
* Powered by WWW.YEHEY.COM

Your life as a movie

BIG MOVIES • BIG STARS • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS



SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX THEATRE

NOW SHOWING

DEEP SEA 3D

Explore the depths of the sea and experience the captivating colors and the exciting drama of marine life.

TICKETS at P 250

Please call
556-IMAX (4629) or 556-0242
for inquiries and reservations,
or email us at imax@smcinema.com

Panasonic
ideas for life

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104

SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX

DEEP SEA 3D Admission Price: P250
1:00 AM • 2:30PM • 5:30 PM • 7:00 PM • 8:30PM
T-REX Admission Price:
3.00 PM P200

THE BRAVE ONE
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
1408
5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
6 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE

PREMIERE CINEMA
UNDERDOG
CENTERSTAGE
DISTURBIA
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
Bookings now accepted. Inquire at 556-2314.

THE PODIUM CINEMA
CINEMA 1
THE BRAVE ONE
CINEMA 2
UNDERDOG
For ticket reservations, dial 6338976
All major credit cards accepted

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452

1 UNDERDOG
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 ROGUE ASSISSIN
5 FOSTER CHILD
6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
ROGUE ASSASSIN
ANINO NG SETYEMBRE/A LOVE STORY
9 RESERVED
10 RESERVED
11 RESERVED
12 RESERVED

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 UNDERDOG
6 FOSTER CHILD
7 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
8 1408
9 A LOVE STORY
10 INVASION
11 SKINWALKERS
12 EVAN ALMIGHTY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 EVAN ALMIGHTY
THE LAST LEGION
1408
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
THE BRAVE ONE
ROGUE ASSASSIN
A LOVE STORY
SKINWALKERS
10 DAYWATCH
11 UNDERDOG
12 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE/DISTURBIA

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 UNDERDOG
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
5 1408
6 SKINWALKERS
7 DISTURBIA
8 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
9 A LOVE STORY
10 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 1408
4 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
5 THE BRAVE ONE
6 UNDERDOG

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 THE BRAVE ONE
5 SKINWALKERS
6 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
7 1408
8 A LOVE STORY
9 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 NANCY DREW
3 UNDERDOG
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
4 1408
5 UNDERDOG
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
7 GANDHI, MY FATHER
8 FOSTER CHILD
9 RUSH HOUR 3
10 A LOVE STORY
11 DISTURBIA
12 SKINWALKERS

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 DAYWATCH
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 UNDERDOG

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 UNDERDOG
4 DISTURBIA

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 DAYWATCH
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 UNDERDOG

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1 1408
2 SKINWALKERS
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 THE BRAVE ONE
5 UNDERDOG
6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
7 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
8 A LOVE STORY

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 1408
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 A LOVE STORY
6 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE/MY KUYA'S WEDDING

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 1408
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 UNDERDOG
4 DISTURBIA

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 INVASION
2 UNDERDOG
3 HAIRSPRAY
4 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1 UNDERDOG
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
4 FOSTER CHILD
5 A LOVE STORY
6 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1 A LOVE STORY
2 INVASION
3 UNDERDOG
4 THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 UNDERDOG
2 A LOVE STORY
3 INVASION
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 INVASION
3 UNDERDOG
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 UNDERDOG
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 THE BRAVE ONE

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811

1 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
2 1408
3 UNDERDOG
4 THE BRAVE ONE

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 A LOVE STORY
4 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
5 RISE
6 INVASION

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 UNDERDOG
2 1408
3 INVASION
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 1408
2 INVASION
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 UNDERDOG
5 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
6 EVAN ALMIGHTY
7 RESERVED
8 THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 DISTURBIA
2 BUG
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 UNDERDOG
5 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
6 FOSTER CHILD
7 A LOVE STORY
8 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

1 UNDERDOG
2 INVASION
3 SINKING OF JAPAN
4 1408

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

And now, a peek into . . .

From page D6

Hate mail

Alessandra de Rossi admits that she and Rhian Ramos are still ignoring each other after Rhian reportedly threw her weight around during a location shoot.

What's with this Rhian girl? Her own fan club is circulating hate mail, denouncing her as their idol. The former Rhian fanatics claim she has grown swellheaded and gone wild. Will the real Rhian please stand up?

Open all hours

RJ Jacinto rocked LA Café Bar & Resto (MH Del Pilar, Ermita) during its anniversary last month.

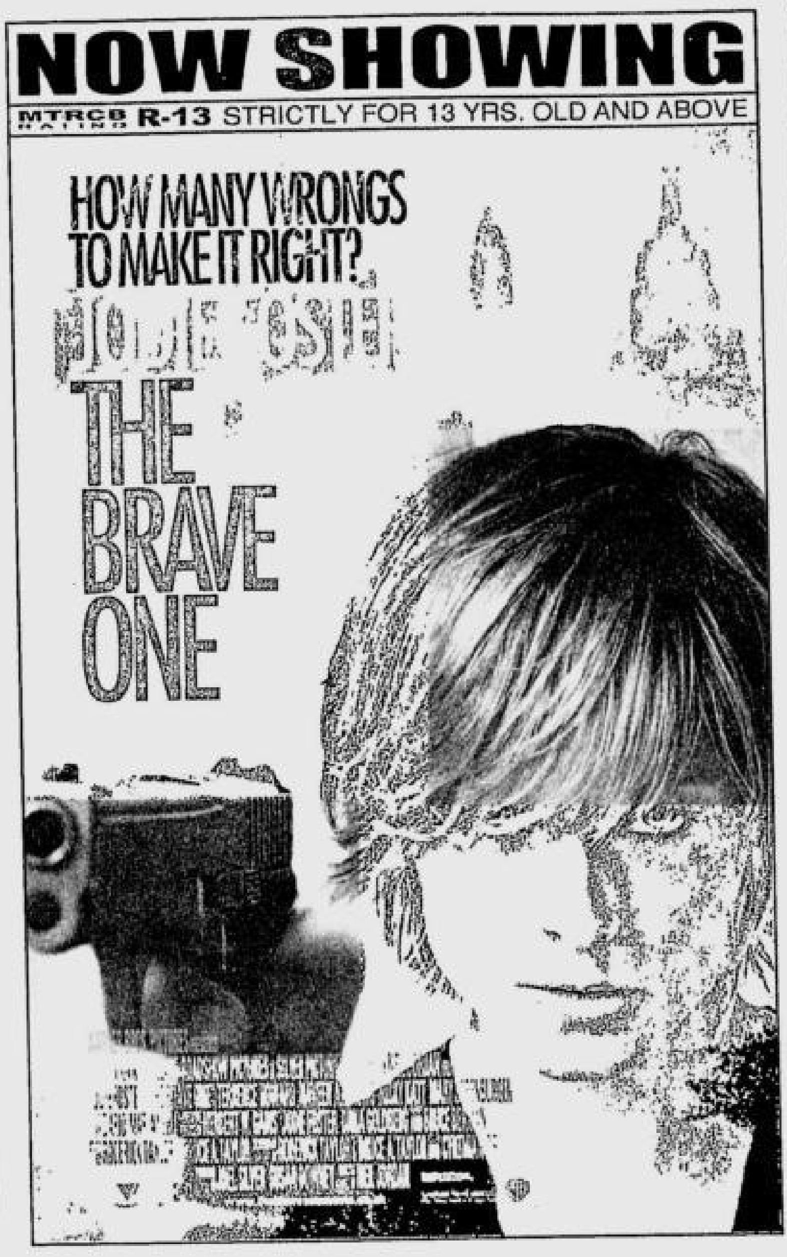
On Sept. 22, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 22, it's folk icon Freddie Aguilar's turn to wow the crowd in the cozy bar that's open 24 hours. Fun is served in LA Café 'round the clock.

Do the walk

Metrowalk (Meralco Ave.) is a diamond in the rough. It boasts of exciting bars and restos such as Aruba, Decades, Elbow Room, Mugen, Opus, Capisce, Good Earth, Misato, and a variety of fashion outlets like Lafayette and Sgt. Pepper. In addition, there's ample parking free of charge. Let's all do the "walk."

E-mail wateringholeshangri-la@yahoo.com.

PAULEEN LUNA


NOW SHOWING
MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YRS. OLD AND ABOVE
HOW MANY WRONGS TO MAKE IT RIGHT?
JODIE FOSTER
THE BRAVE ONE

POWER PLANT CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

DISTURBIA PG13 1:00,3:15,5:30, 7:45,10:00	I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 1:00,3:20,5:40, 8:00,10:20	UNDERDOG G 12:10,2:10,4:10, 6:10,8:10,10:10
ROGUE ASSASSIN R13 1:50,4:00,6:10, 8:20,10:30	NANCY DREW G 12:20,2:30,4:40, 6:50,9:00	THE BRAVE ONE R13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHANG CINEPLEX
① UNDERDOG MTRCB GP 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
② THE BRAVE ONE MTRCB R-13 2:00, 4:40, 7:20 10:00
③ ROGUE ASSASSIN MTRCB R-13 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
④ DISTURBIA MTRCB PG-13 12:20, 3:00, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE NANCY DREW (GP) 1:30, 4:00, 6:20, 8:30
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
A Blockbuster Gift for all Season
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
Treat your family and friends to a thrilling movie experience only at the shang
Cinema Treats- for Cinemas 1, 2, 3, and 4
Premiere Rewards for the Premiere Theatre
6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-7851 loc. 7170 or 633-2227 for more details
Shangri-La Plaza

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 ROUGE ASSASIN 11:00, 1:20, 3:40 6:00, 8:20, 10:35 R-13
CINEMA 2 NANCY DREW // DISTURBIA 11:10, 1:30, 3:50 // 5:55, 8:15, 10:35 GP / PG-13
DOLBY DIGITAL
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 11:00, 1:20, 3:40 6:00, 8:20, 10:35
CINEMA 4 UNDERDOG 11:05, 1:15, 3:25 5:35, 7:45, 10:00 GP
CINEMA 5 THE BRAVE ONE 10:45, 1:35, 4:25 7:15, 10:00 R-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL 722-4496

MUSIC MUSEUM

September 15, 2007	Rico J. w/ Ruffa Mae	8:00 PM
September 22, 2007	Jett Pangan, Michael De Mesa, Ricky Davao	8:00 PM
September 29, 2007	Sugarfree	8:00 PM
October 08 & 09 2007	"Alamat" Stageplay	

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

Sept. 21, 28 2007	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
Sep. 12, 26, 27, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC. 116

Araneta Center
aranetacenter.net
Gateway AliMALL FarmersPlaza
gatewaymall.com.ph
Gateway CINEPLEX*10
ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

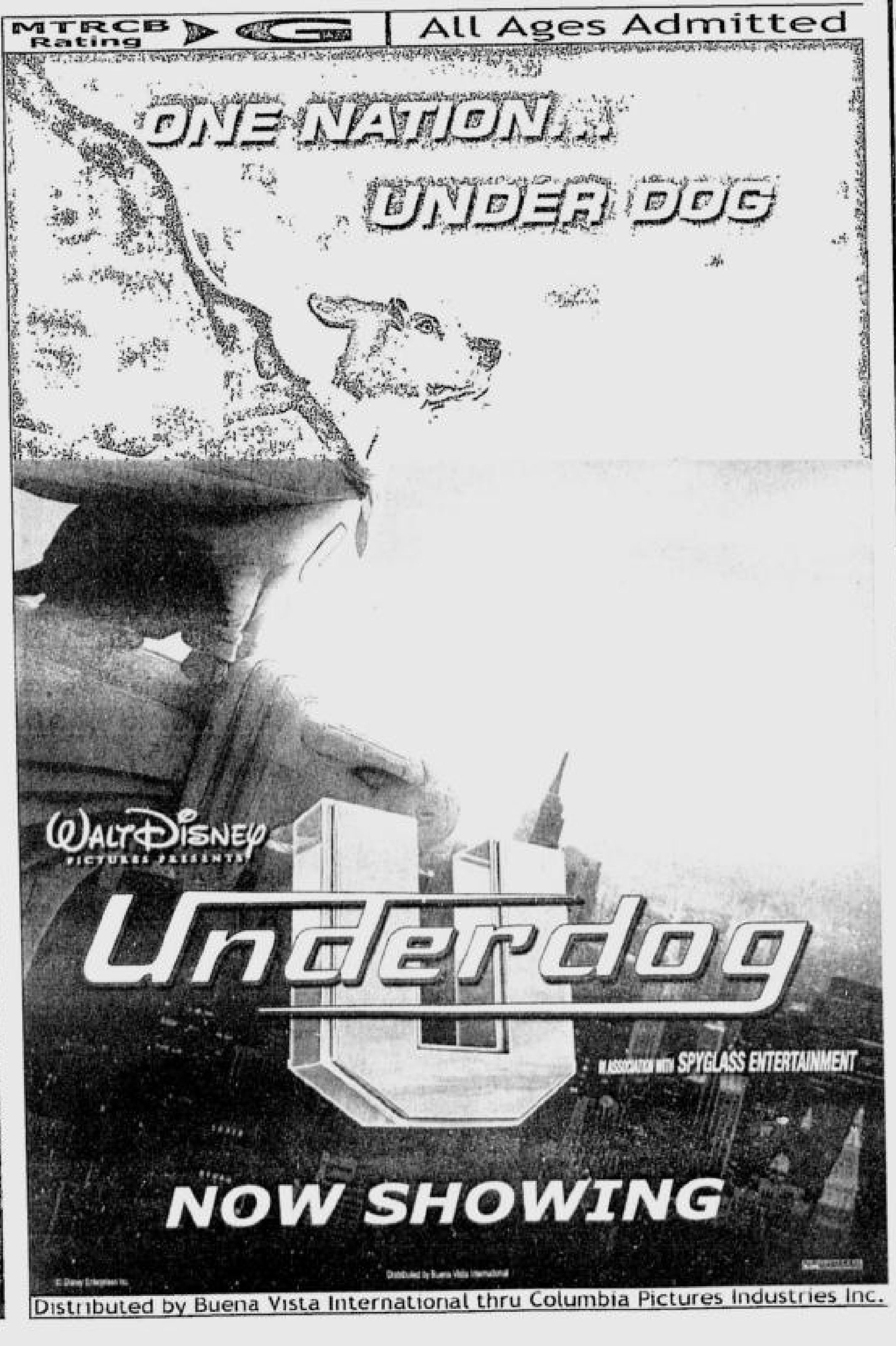
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 2:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30	ROUGE ASSASSIN 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40	DAY WATCH 2:55 / 7:30	THE PLATINUM CINEMA
1408 1:10 / 5:30 / 9:50 NANCY DREW 12:20 / 4:55 / 9:40	UNDERDOG 1:40 / 3:40 / 5:40 / 7:40 / 9:40	THE BRAVE ONE 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 10:00	
FOSTER CHILD 2:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	DISTURBIA 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30 SKINWALKERS 3:20 / 7:40	A LOVE STORY 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	THE BRAVE ONE 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00

AliMALL CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 12:45 / 3:15 / 5:45 / 8:15	ROUGE ASSASSIN 2:10 PM / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30	THE BRAVE ONE 2:00 / 2:40 / 5:20 / 8:00

ARANETA COLISEUM
www.aranetacoliseum.com
UAAP BASKETBALL GAMES
September 13, Thursday
2 pm UST vs FEU Srs 4 pm DLSU vs UE Srs
HOUSEMATES SEASON 1
TULOY ANG BUHAY
September 15, Saturday 8 pm
For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

MTRCB PG-13
NOW SHOWING
SM North Edsa, SM Mega, SM Mla, SM Pampanga, SM Cebu, Gateway, Robinson Ermita, Glorietta, Trinoma (North Edsa), Market Market, Ali Mall
Foster Child
directed by BRILLANTE MENDOZA
WON A STANDING OVATION AT CANNES FILM FESTIVAL. A MUST SEE FILM!


MTRCB Rating G All Ages Admitted
ONE NATION... UNDER DOG
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
Underdog
IN ASSOCIATION WITH SPYGLASS ENTERTAINMENT
NOW SHOWING

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures Industries Inc.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-La Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
1 UNDERDOG
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 NANCY DREW
4 ROGUE ASSASIN
PREMIERE
DISTURBIA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 UNDERDOG
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 DISTURBIA
4 ROGUE ASSASIN

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 UNDERDOG
4 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
5 PLEASE CALL

metropolis star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 UNDERDOG
2 ROGUE ASSASIN
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

THEATRES
THE INVASION
2 RISE
3 SINKING JAPAN

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel. (042) 660 52
1 UNDERDOG
2 THE INVASION
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 1408
2 EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
4 UNDERDOG
5 ROGUE ASSASIN
6 UNDERDOG
7 THE BRAVE ONE
8 NANCY DREW / DAY WATCH
THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM / DISTURBIA
10 RUSH HOUR - 3 / SKINWALKERS

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Nino, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 SKINWALKERS
3 UNDERDOG
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 THE BRBRAVE ONE
5 UNDERDOG

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 DAY WATCH
2 LAST LEGION
3 THE INVASION
4 CHOPSOUEY

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 UNDERDOG
2 ROGUE ASSASIN
3 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449348)
1 UNDERDOG
2 THE INVASION

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 UNDERDOG
2 ROGUE ASSASIN
3 SIGNOS
4 HAIRSPRAY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SINKING JAPAN
2 1408

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 UNDERDOG
2 THE BRBRAVE ONE
3 ROGUE ASSASIN
4 DISTURBIA

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 THE BRBRAVE ONE
2 THE INVASION
3 UNDERDOG
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 SIGNOS
2 PLANET TERROR
3 SINKING JAPAN

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 FRACTURE
2 SIGNOS
3 SINKING JAPAN
4 THREE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plandel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 LICENSE TO WED / THE INVASION
2 UNDERDOG
3 RISE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 THE INVASION
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 DON'T LOOK BACK
2 LAST LEGION

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 SKINWALKERS
2 MALAGKIT
3 ITLOG
4 LAST LEGION

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 THE INVASION
2 TAGOS SA LAMAN
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 LAST LEGION
5 UNDERDOG

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 LAST LEGION
2 THE INVASION
3 DON'T LOOK BACK
4 UNDERDOG

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 TUMITIBOK
2 BATANG MAGDALENA

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Teysi: Comedy can't die

From page D6

old newcomers."

Tessie adds: "Good thing, my packaging is different."

She has not completely lost faith in the biz, though. "I'm very excited about independent digital films."

She got three Best Supporting Actress nominations for her role in Connie Macatuno's "Rome and Juliet"—from Cinema One film fest, Golden Screen Enpress and now, Urian.

"It's my first Urian nod," she says. "It made all the hard work worthwhile."

Teen mom to cool ma

From page D6

self a "cool mom," Jean said she is not strict, especially on matters concerning love. "I know Jenica will eventually fall in love. [But] for now, I want her to enjoy life," she said. "Jenica asks me about everything; I always advise her to just be herself."

She added: "People come up to me and say Jenica is a good actress. I'm so proud of her."

Jean said she was equally proud of her career at the moment. She had done "almost every thing," she said, since her 1980s launching horror flick, "Impaktita," which is still being shown on TV.

She played the role of Madame Claudia in the top-rating TV series "Pangako Sa 'Yo," and the lead role in "Magpakailanman: The Patricia Donggalo Story."

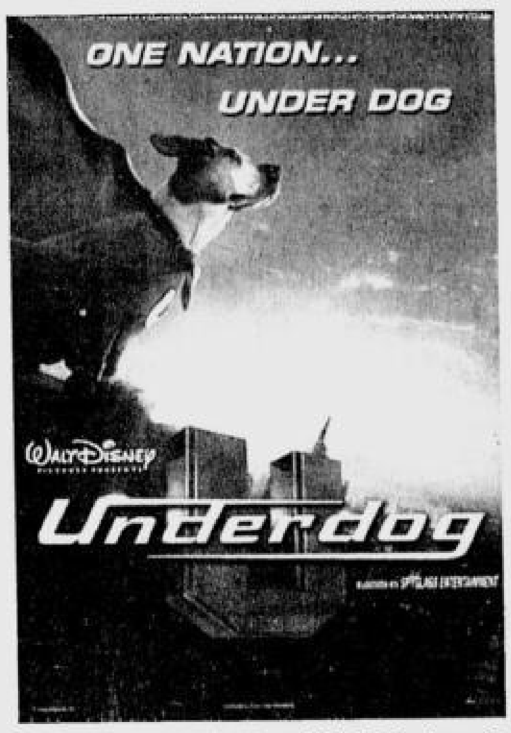
About the latter role, Jean recounted: "I competed with Vilma Santos for the Star Award Best Actress trophy for that role. Vi won, but we beat the rival channel in the ratings game."

Also challenging for Jean was her role of novelty song artist Mystica in "Maalaala Mo Kaya."

"Like Mystica, I had to sing, dance and wear fake nails," Jean said. "That was really tough, too."

But the ultimate challenge for her, Jean said, would be to pose for a men's magazine. "I can bare skin if a movie requires it, but I'm not so sure about doing that for a men's magazine. Although, I'll probably consider it if my daughter does not object."

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES the City of Makati
in cooperation with MAKE UP FOR EVER PROFESSIONAL
present
Disney's Cinderella Kids
Directed by
Baby Barredo and Joy Virata
August 11 - December 13, 2007
Onstage, 2nd Flr., Greenbelt 1,
Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
For inquiries call 887-0710
or 891-9999
"CINDERELLA KIDS" is presented through a special arrangement with MTI's Kids Collection
923 JOEY



Showing on SEPT. 12 MTRCB Rating: G

BOW WOW FUN SHOW
DRESS 'EM UP
UNDERDOG STYLE
Bring your cute pet dogs in a superhero costume and get special prizes.
Major Prizes and other special awards tobe given as follows:
BOW WOW Champ and runners up
Master & pet look-alike
Most Talented Buddy
BOW WOW Eater
BOW WOW Fun Show is on SEPT. 15 (Sat.)
2PM at Orosa Atrium, Robinsons Place, Manila
*Registration Forms are now available at all Handyman Do-it-Best Home Center Outlets

Ayala Malls CINEMAS
EXCLUSIVE GUARANTEED VIEWING PLEASURE
OPENS SEPTEMBER 19
AT GLORIETTA 4
and GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
"Superbly crafted psychological thriller."
ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY
"Brilliant house-horror tale with Hitchcockian flair."
THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER
Sam Rockwell Vera Farmiga
joshua
Not all children are innocent.
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)
glorietta GREENBELT

The THX experience
Giving you more than the front seat.
A unique cinematic experience from the largest THX certified theatre operator in the country.
Ayala Malls Cinemas
Ayala CINEMAS

AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
GLORIETTA 1	FOSTER CHILD	ROGUE ASSASIN	THE BRAVE ONE	DAYWATCH			
GLORIETTA 4	UNDERDOG	I KNOW WHO KILLED ME	THX THE BRAVE ONE GUARANTEED SEATS	NANCY DREW / THE INVASION	DISTURBIA	ROGUE ASSASIN	1408
GREENBELT 1	ROGUE ASSASIN	THE BRAVE ONE					
GREENBELT 3	THX ROGUE ASSASIN GUARANTEED SEATS	THX THE BRAVE ONE GUARANTEED SEATS	DISTURBIA GUARANTEED SEATS	I KNOW WHO KILLED ME GUARANTEED SEATS	UNDERDOG GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX THE BRAVE ONE	ROGUE ASSASIN	UNDERDOG	I KNOW WHO KILLED ME	DISTURBIA		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	DISTURBIA	UNDERDOG	PAN'S LABYRINTH	BUG			
MARKET! MARKET!	ROGUE ASSASIN	FOSTER CHILD	I KNOW WHO KILLED ME	THE BRAVE ONE	UNDERDOG		
TRINOMA	FOSTER CHILD	DISTURBIA	UNDERDOG GUARANTEED SEATS	I KNOW WHO KILLED ME GUARANTEED SEATS	1408	ROGUE ASSASIN	THX THE BRAVE ONE GUARANTEED SEATS

TRINOMA
- THX Certified
- All-Digital Sound
- All-Stadium Seating
- Computerized Ticketing System
- Recliner Seats

AT THE MALLS

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000
Ayala

glorietta	NREA - Housing Fair September 10 & 11, 2007 at the Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Jazz Nights September 12, 2007 at GB 2 Al Fresco
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Anson's Exhibit September 1 to 16, 2007 at the Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 26; 6 PM; OnStage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Lactum Mall Show September 8 & 9, 2007 at the Activity Center
Greenbelt 1 Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids at REP's Globe Theater - Opens August 11, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM	Antiqueños: Homage to my Kasimanwas August 28 to September 10, 2007 For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
Tri Noma	Samsung Exhibit An exhibit of the latest Samsung mobile phones September 14 to 16; 10am to 9 pm; Starbucks / Food Choices Level 2

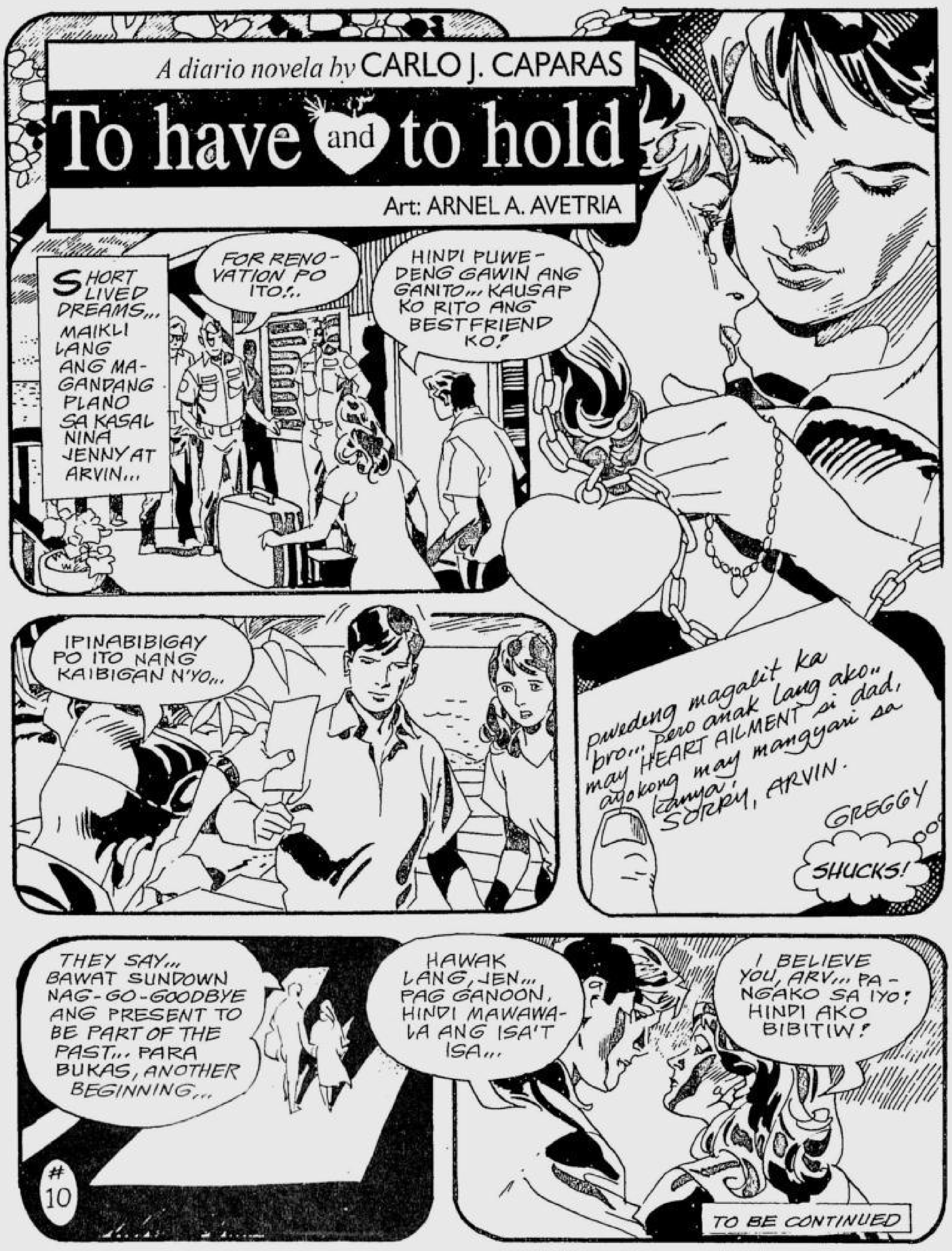
The 1st International Silent Film Festival
A Monster Serpent
Don't miss classic Silent Films scored
live by the country's best artists
September 4 The Adventures of Prince Achmed
Music by Drip
September 10 The Sixth Sense
Music by Wahijuara
September 13 A Monster Serpent
Music by Mahiling Ensemble
Greenbelt 3 Cinema 2, 8PM
Buy Your Tickets in Advance!

Catch American Idol finalist Elliott Yamin in a live concert at the Ayala Malls!
TriNoma
Activity Center
September 21
7:00pm
Glorietta
Activity Center
September 22
7:00pm
Market! Market!
Activity Center
September 23
6:00pm
Ayala Center Cebu
On Stage
September 26
6:00pm
Alabang Town Center
Activity Center
September 28
6:30pm
glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

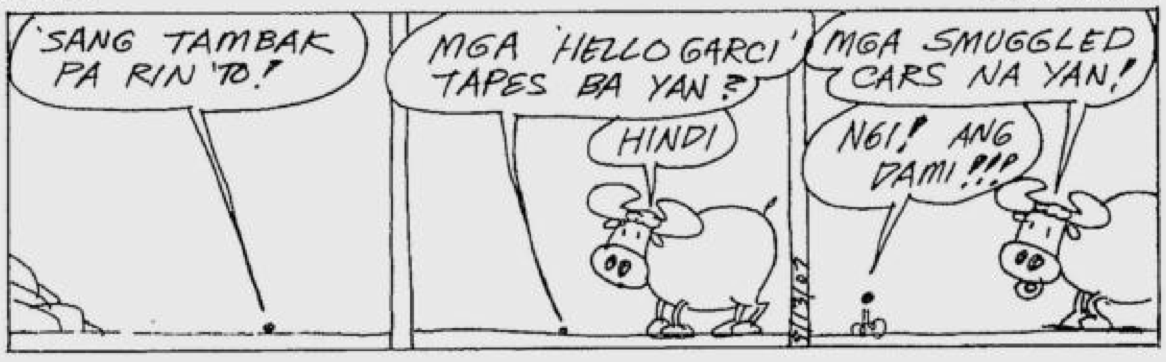
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


SHORT LIVED DREAMS... MAIKLI LANG ANG MAGANDANG PLANO SA KASAL NINA JENNY AT ARVIN...
FOR RENOVATION PO ITO!..
HINDI PUWEDENG GAWIN ANG GANITO... KAUSAP KO RITO ANG BESTFRIEND KO!
IPINABIBIGAY PO ITO NANG KAIBIGAN N'YO...
Puwedeng magalit ka bro... pero anak lang ako.. may HEART AILMENT si dad, ayokong may mangyari sa kanya! SORRY, ARVIN.
GREGGY
SHUCKS!
THEY SAY... BAWAT SUNDOWN NAG-GO-GOODBYE ANG PRESENT TO BE PART OF THE PAST... PARA BUKAS, ANOTHER BEGINNING...
HAWAK LANG, JEN... PAG GANOON, HINDI MAWAWALA ANG ISA'T ISA...
I BELIEVE YOU, ARV... PANGAKO SA IYO! HINDI AKO BIBITIW!
#10
TO BE CONTINUED

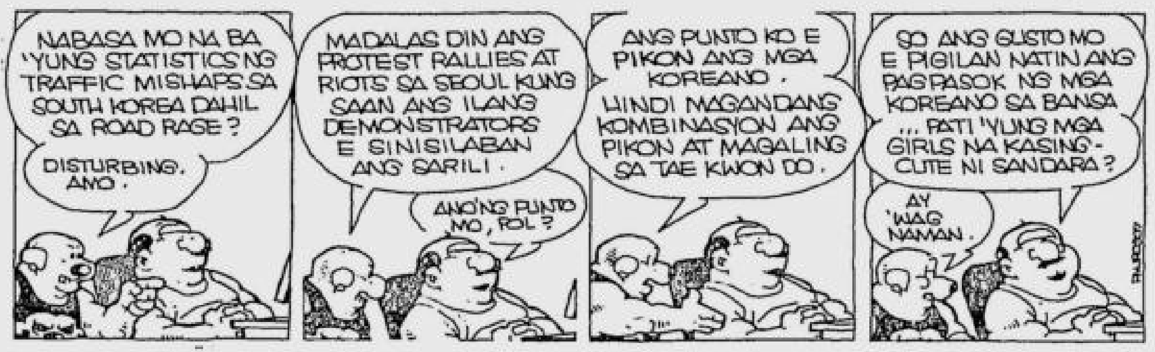
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


'SANG TAMBAK PA RIN 'TO!
MGA 'HELLO GARCI' TAPES BA YAN?
HINDI
MGA SMUGGLED CARS NA YAN!
NGI! ANG DAMI!!!?

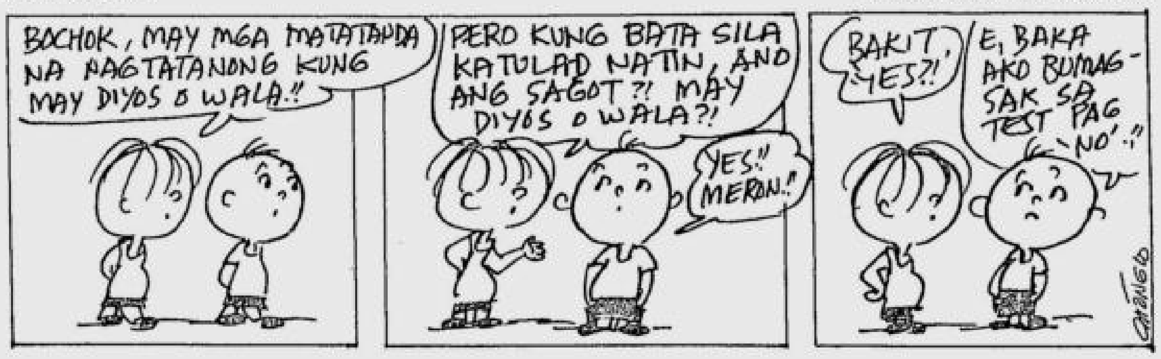
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NABASA MO NA BA 'YUNG STATISTICS NG TRAFFIC MISHAPS SA SOUTH KOREA DAHIL SA ROAD RAGE?
DISTURBING. ANO.
MADALAS DIN ANG PROTEST RALLIES AT RIOTS SA SEOUL KUNG SAAN ANG ILANG DEMONSTRATORS E SINISILABAN ANG SARILI.
ANO'NG PUNTO MO, POL?
ANG PUNTO KO E PIKON ANG MGA KOREANO. HINDI MAGANDANG KOMBINASYON ANG PIKON AT MAGALING SA TAE KWON DO.
SO ANG GUSTO MO E PIGILAN NATIN ANG PAGPASOK NG MGA KOREANO SA BANSA ... PATI 'YUNG MGA GIRLS NA KASING-CUTE NI SANDARA?
AY 'WAG NAMAN.

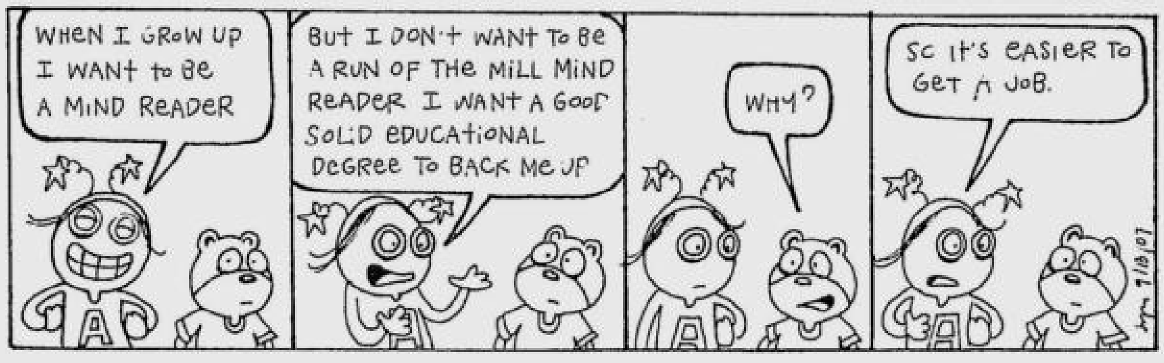
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BOCHOK, MAY MGA MATATANDA NA NAGTATANONG KUNG MAY DIYOS O WALA!!
PERO KUNG BATA SILA KATULAD NATIN, ANO ANG SAGOT?! MAY DIYOS O WALA?!
YES!! MERON!!
BAKIT, YES?!
E, BAKA AKO BUMAGSAK SA TEST PAG 'NO'!!
CHIONGLO

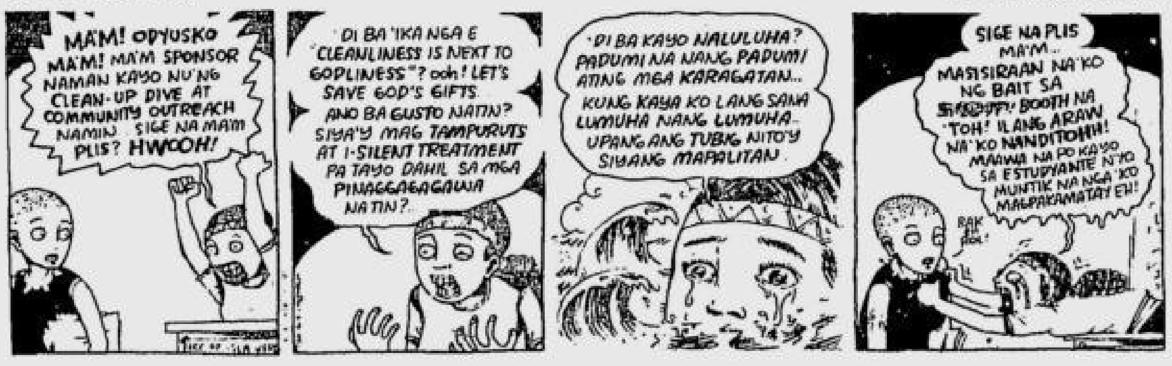
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

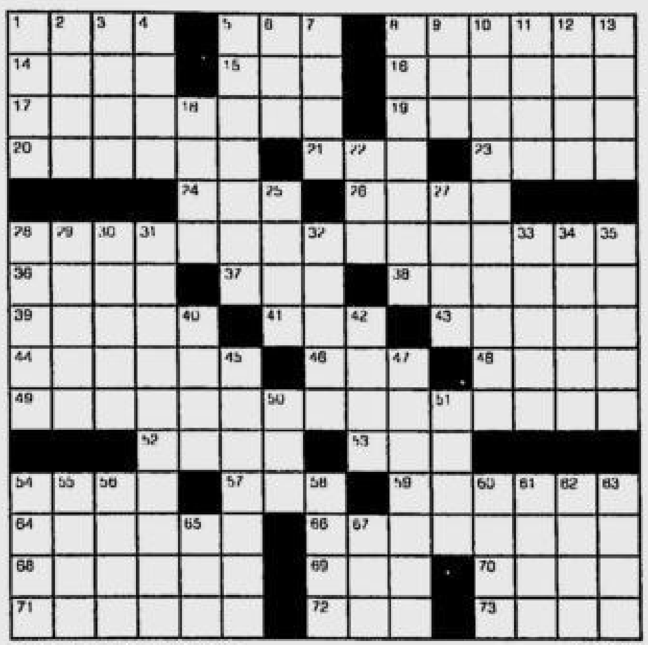

WHEN I GROW UP I WANT to BE A MIND READER
But I DON'T WANT To BE A RUN OF THE MILL MIND READER I WANT A GOOD SOLID EDUCATIONAL DEGREE TO BACK ME UP
WHY?
SO IT'S EASIER TO GET A JOB.

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


MA'M! OPYUSKO MA'M! MA'M SPONSOR NAMAN KAYO NU'NG CLEAN-UP DIVE AT COMMUNITY OUTREACH NAMIN SIGE NA MA'M PLIS? HWOOH!
DI BA 'IKA NGA E "CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS"? ooh! LET'S SAVE GOD'S GIFTS. ANO BA GUSTO NATIN? SIYA'Y MAG TAMPURUTS AT I-SILENT TREATMENT PA TAYO DAHIL SA MGA PINAGGAGAGAWA NATIN?
DI BA KAYO NALULUHA? PADUMI NA NANG PADUMI ATING MGA KARAGATAN... KUNG KAYA KO LANG SANA LUMUHA NANG LUMUHA.. UPANG ANG TUBIG NITO'Y SIYANG MAPALITAN.
SIGE NA PLIS MA'M.. MASISIRAAN NA'KO NG BAIT SA BOOTH NA 'TOH! ILANG ARAW NA'KO NANDITOHH! MAAWA NA PO KAYO SA ESTUDYANTE N'YO MUNTIK NA NGA 'KO MAGPAKAMATAY EH!
RAK

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
9/13/07

ACROSS
1 Gallivants
5 Billiards stick
8 Squabble
14 Lot measure
15 Actor Holbrook
16 Condition of life
17 Start of Evan Esar quip
19 More submissive
20 Fishing nets
21 Sailor's assent
23 Relax
24 Dined
26 Facilitate
28 Part 2 of quip
36 City on the Tiber
37 Nutrition label fig.
38 Surgical line
39 Literary device
41 Beattie or Blyth
43 Poet Thomas
44 Ships' contents
46 The Common Mkt.
48 Liver spread
49 Part 3 of quip
52 Site of Hannibal's defeat
53 Mauna _ volcano
54 Woodstock performer Joan
57 Fr. woman's title
59 Scouting groups
64 Fly
66 End of quip
68 Dread
69 "__ Maria"
70 Theater award
71 Formal agreement
72 Word of agreement
73 Large antelope

DOWN
1 Hoods' guns
2 Longing
3 Three, in Berlin
4 Stitched
5 Nimitz or Gould
6 Abu Dhabi, Dubai et al.
7 Songstress Fitzgerald
8 Puts down
9 Put to a purpose
10 Stock character
11 Make off with
12 Shoshones
13 Flippant
18 Make sound
22 Word from a pro?
25 Norse saga
27 Type of poker
28 Writer Jong
29 Singer Jones
30 Love Italian-style
31 "Anatomy of a Murder" co-star
32 "Luncheon on the Grass" painter
33 Soviet labor camp
34 Muse of poetry
35 Principle
40 Luke's Jedi mentor
42 Simon or Young
45 Like warm weather
47 Garments
50 "Miss Saigon" setting, briefly
51 Spy Mata
54 Fabric stuffing
55 Declare
56 Emerald Isle
58 Auction milieu
60 Not taken in by
61 Stench
62 Related to yew?
63 Underworld river
65 Little one
67 Eden evictee

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	H	A	M	E	■	A	B	A	S	■	A	C	M	E
H	I	R	E	D	■	M	A	T	E	■	S	H	E	D
A	L	O	N	E	■	E	S	T	A	■	T	A	M	E
M	O	N	U	M	E	N	T	A	L	E	R	R	O	R
■	■	■	S	A	R	D	■	R	E	L	O	■	■	■
U	M	A	■	S	A	M	S	■	R	I	D	G	E	S
P	A	N	S	■	S	E	A	R	■	T	O	R	T	E
P	R	I	O	R	E	N	G	A	G	E	M	E	N	T
E	N	T	R	E	■	T	A	P	E	■	E	T	A	T
R	E	A	C	T	S	■	S	I	N	S	■	A	S	O
■	■	■	E	R	A	S	■	D	O	E	S	■	■	■
U	N	P	R	O	V	E	N	F	A	C	U	L	T	Y
R	U	L	E	■	A	L	A	I	■	T	I	A	R	A
I	D	O	S	■	G	E	E	R	■	O	T	T	E	R
S	E	W	S	■	E	S	S	E	■	R	E	E	S	E

(C)2007 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved.
9/13/07

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

			1	8				
	9		6					7
						8		4
			8				6	
2		7		5		1		3
	5				6			
6		4						
5					4		9	
				7	5			

Difficulty Level ★★★
9/13

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc

Answer to previous puzzle

2	5	4	6	7	1	8	9	3
1	8	9	5	3	2	4	6	7
7	6	3	8	4	9	1	5	2
5	3	2	9	1	4	7	8	6
8	7	6	3	2	5	9	1	4
4	9	1	7	8	6	2	3	5
9	2	7	1	5	3	6	4	8
3	1	8	4	6	7	5	2	9
6	4	5	2	9	8	3	7	1

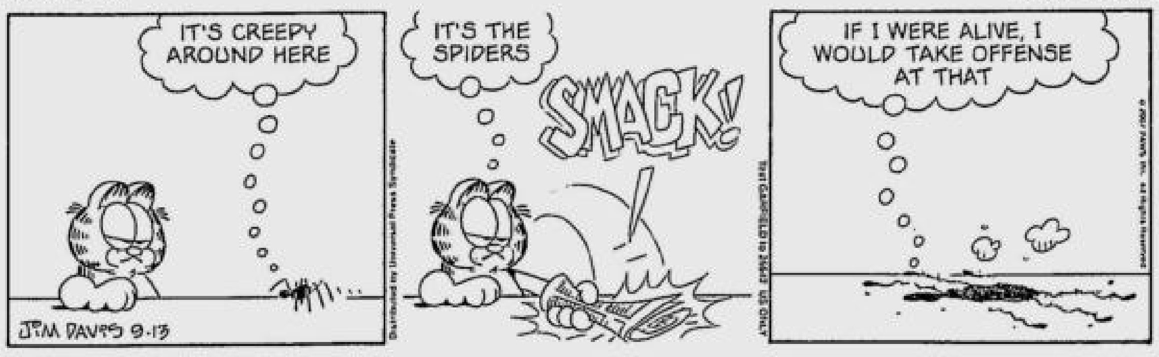
Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


IT'S CREEPY AROUND HERE
IT'S THE SPIDERS
SMACK!
IF I WERE ALIVE, I WOULD TAKE OFFENSE AT THAT
JIM DAVIS 9.13

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're an independent thinker with a great sense of humor. You're direct, honest and enterprising. You're also very enthusiastic if you like something. You enjoy beautiful things in social situations. You're highly persuasive and well-organized. You love to learn. Work hard to build or construct something important to you in the year ahead. (Your payoff will soon follow.)

Birthdate of: Stella McCartney, designer/activist; Jean Smart, actress; Ben Savage, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): It's easy to enjoy the company of others today, especially partners, close friends or members of the general public. You feel mellow and friendly toward everyone.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a pretty easygoing day at work. People are reasonably cooperative. Nobody wants to rock the boat. Enjoy your day!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a friendly, flirtatious day. You want to have fun, and you want to enjoy the company of others. Playful activities with children are delightful. Sports and the theater are good choices as well.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You want to make improvements to where you live today, or buy something beautiful for your home. Family discussions are warm and friendly. Enjoy entertaining.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a lovely, pleasant day for you. The Moon is making a beneficial aspect to Venus, which is in your sign right now. You feel charming and diplomatic—and of course, you are!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a good day to shop or explore financial investments. In particular, you'll want to buy beautiful things. Whatever you buy might increase in value or at least please you for a long time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a wonderful day to schmooze with others. The Moon is in your sign, and you feel particularly sociable. Talk to friends. Attend group gatherings. People are cooperative today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Solitude in beautiful surroundings will please you today. If you get a moment, try to kick back and relax. You'll enjoy your own company today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Conversations with female friends could be significant today. Discussions about travel, publishing, the media or lofty subjects will entertain you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Quite likely, you'll do something that calls attention to yourself today. Fortunately, it will be in a positive way. People will appreciate your thoughtfulness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Do something different today! You want to have some fun in your life. You also want to have the thrill of learning something new or unusual.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Friends are generous to you today. Gifts and goodies might come your way. At the very least, someone will do a favor for you. This is a good day to discuss shared property or how to divide something.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

And now, a peek into Pauleen Luna's blog

A LOT OF READERS E-MAILED ME, SAYing they enjoyed reading the blogs of Zsa Zsa Padilla and Lea Salonga which I printed in previous columns.

To continue with our celebs' blog "series," here are some entries in Pauleen Luna's and Jed Madela's. Isn't it a welcome change to get a glimpse of the stars' thoughts, instead of being bombarded with crazy controversies about them?

Reality Check (by Pauleen Luna)

"There are times when you feel so happy that it [feels like] your last day on earth. Have you felt like that, too?

"But the reality is, pain is just around the corner. It's like happy moments are reminders that we should get ready anytime for another trial to come. Hey, I'm not trying to sound pessimistic here. I just realized something that I have personally experienced many times.

"The life I have been living for almost 19 years now [may be] short, but it has taught me some very priceless lessons. And I'm definitely keeping them stored in my mind.

"Right now, I just want to enjoy these happy moments. I feel so happy that I wanna push it to the limit. Because the truth is, I haven't felt better in my entire life.

"I have a very loving and generous Father up there who won't ever get tired of taking good care of me. I have a very supportive family, a good job, irreplaceable friends, amazing new friends and a very loving partner. What more can I ask for?

"Everything that makes me happy are in my hands right now. And if ever I fall, I'm pretty sure I'll get up."

A Filipino Thing (by Jed Madela)

"I notice that we Filipinos have a weird way of [starting] conversations with people whom we haven't seen for some time.

"Normally, it goes like this: *'Uuuuyy! Kumusta? Tumaba ka ah...'* Or, *'Uuuy... payat natin ngayon ah...'*

"What's with the weight-related opening remark?

"I experienced that today. Which greeting? Both! In one day? How can I have gone from fat to slim in a matter of hours? Whoa! I guess it's just a Filipino thing. Sometimes, we don't know what to talk about.

"A simple 'Hi, how've you been?' would do. *Pero... 'Uuuyy! Tumaba ka!'*

"What if I answer, *'Ikaw nga dyan eh...'* Nyahaha!

Lessons in love

I cornered Polo Ravales about the real score between himself and Ms Earth-Canada, Rizza Santos. "She's GF material but I'm not ready for another relationship," he says grinning, and then sighs. *"Medyo* fresh *pa 'yung sa amin ni* Ara."

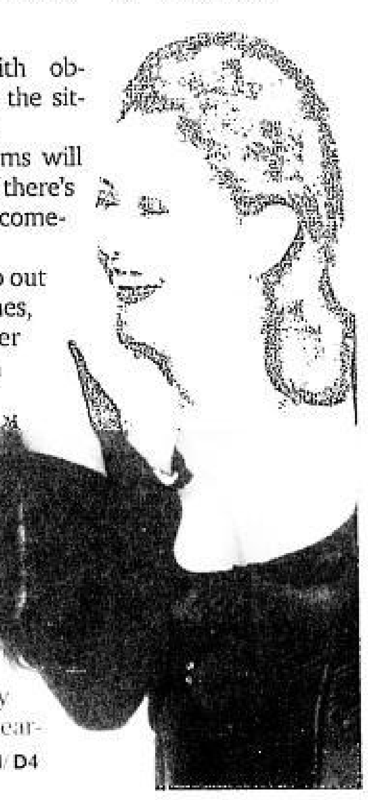
What has he learned about love so far? "Both parties should find enough time for each other," Polo says. "Useless *ang* love if you're always apart."

My sentiments exactly, Polo. You can't expect high rewards from a low-maintenance relationship. You gotta love hard or hardly love at all.

AND/ D3

Teysi: Comedy can't die

By Bayani San Diego Jr.



ALTHOUGH TESSIE TOMAS' GMA 7 sitcom, "Bahay Mo Ba 'To," was canceled recently, she keeps herself busy traveling, cooking—and belly-dancing.

On her last trip to London, she visited husband Roger Pullin's grandchildren. In New York, she went restaurant-hopping with her son Robin and watched Broadway plays, among them "The Year of Magical Thinking," starring Vanessa Redgrave.

Still, she misses the weekly grind.

"Our show's cancellation came as a shock to the entire cast, especially since the ratings and commercial load were good," she tells INQUIRER Entertainment.

Tessie disagrees with observers who claim that the sitcom as a genre is dying.

"I don't believe sitcoms will ever die," she asserts. "If there's drama, there's got to be comedy."

Comedy will never go out of style in the Philippines, Tessie, who marks her 26th anniversary in show biz next month, believes.

She describes the TV industry as "unpredictable and mind-boggling...I don't know if I still have something to look forward to in a crowded medium dominated by fiercely competing 12- to 21-year-

TEYSI/ D4

BRITNEY SPEARS [illegible] 7 MTV Video [illegible]

REUTERS

A 'mangled' comeback

NEW YORK—THE CONSENSUS IS CLEAR: Britney Spears performed like she was sloshing through mud at MTV's Video Music Awards. The troubled pop princess royally mangled her heralded comeback.

But what about the nastiest comments of all—those about her body? "Lard and Clear," read Monday's headline in the New York Post. "The bulging belly she was flaunting was SO not hot," wrote E! Online.

Certainly, people were curious to see her. The show drew 7.1 million viewers Sunday, up 23 percent over last year's VMAs, and was the highest-rated cable program of the year among people aged 12 to 34, according to Nielsen Media Research.

The morning after, the blogosphere was buzzing with opinions. For every "fat" comment there was an impassioned retort. "Give her a break," wrote one blogger on Aboutthink.com. "The girl's had two kids—I hope I'm a size 10 after having kids!"

For many observers, the issue was not so much the body, but the body in the outfit.

"In that ensemble, you just can't have an ounce of anything extra," said Janice Min, editor of the celebrity magazine US Weekly.

Suze Yalof Scwhartz, executive editor-at-large for Glamour Magazine, was an unexpected ally. She noted, "When you walk around the stage in a black bikini in front of millions of viewers, people are going to notice." But, she added, though Spears does not have the perfect body she once did, "Most women would die for the body she has now." *AP*

JEAN GARCIA

Teenage mom to cool ma

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTRESS JEAN Garcia, who got pregnant in her teens, considers her 17-year-old daughter Jenica lucky.

"Our generation wasn't as well-informed about sex as kids of today [are]," Jean told members of the press during the opening of Bioessence Greenhills branch, where she is an endorser. "We feared asking our own parents; now [even] TV commercials encourage safe sex."

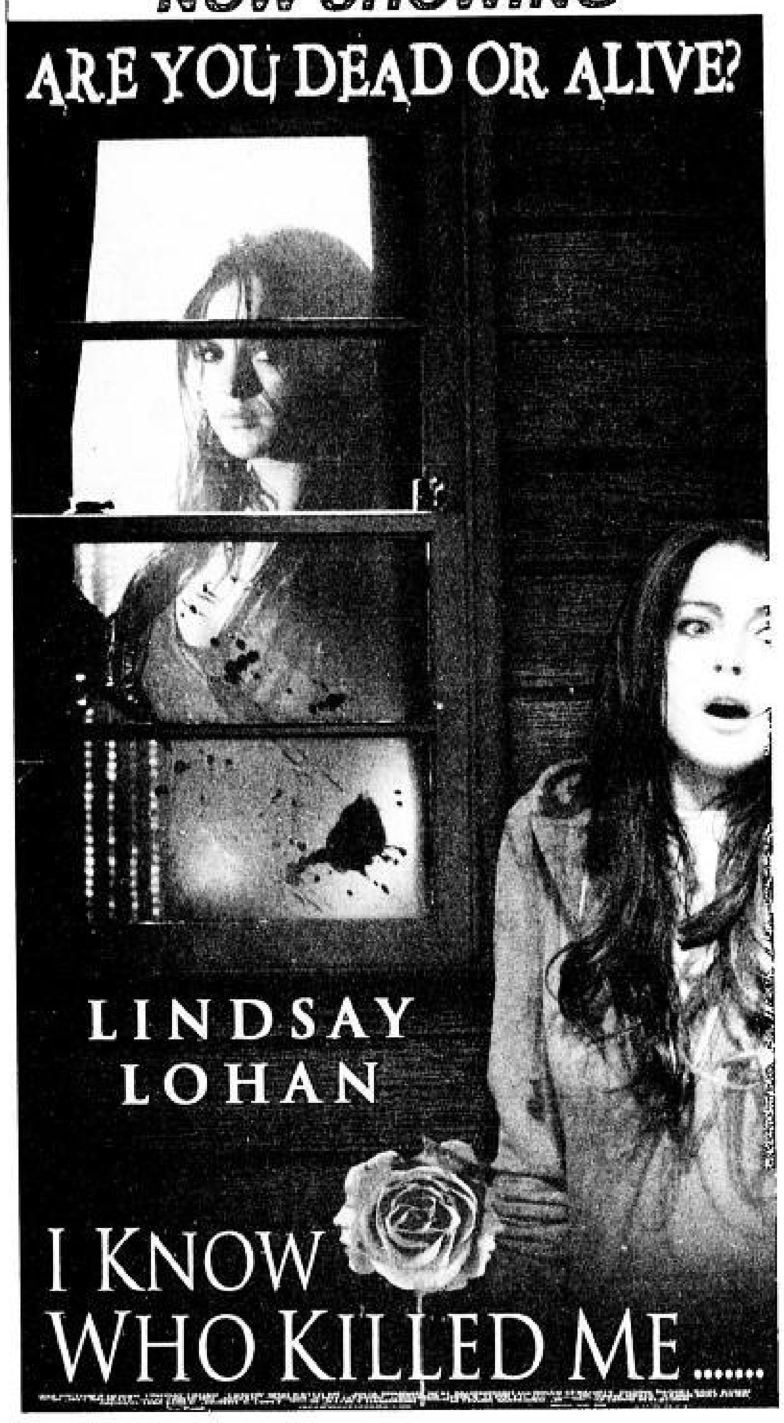
TV tandem

Jenica, Jean's daughter by '80s actor Jigo Garcia, has joined show biz. They are currently seen on the GMA 7 TV series, "Impostora."

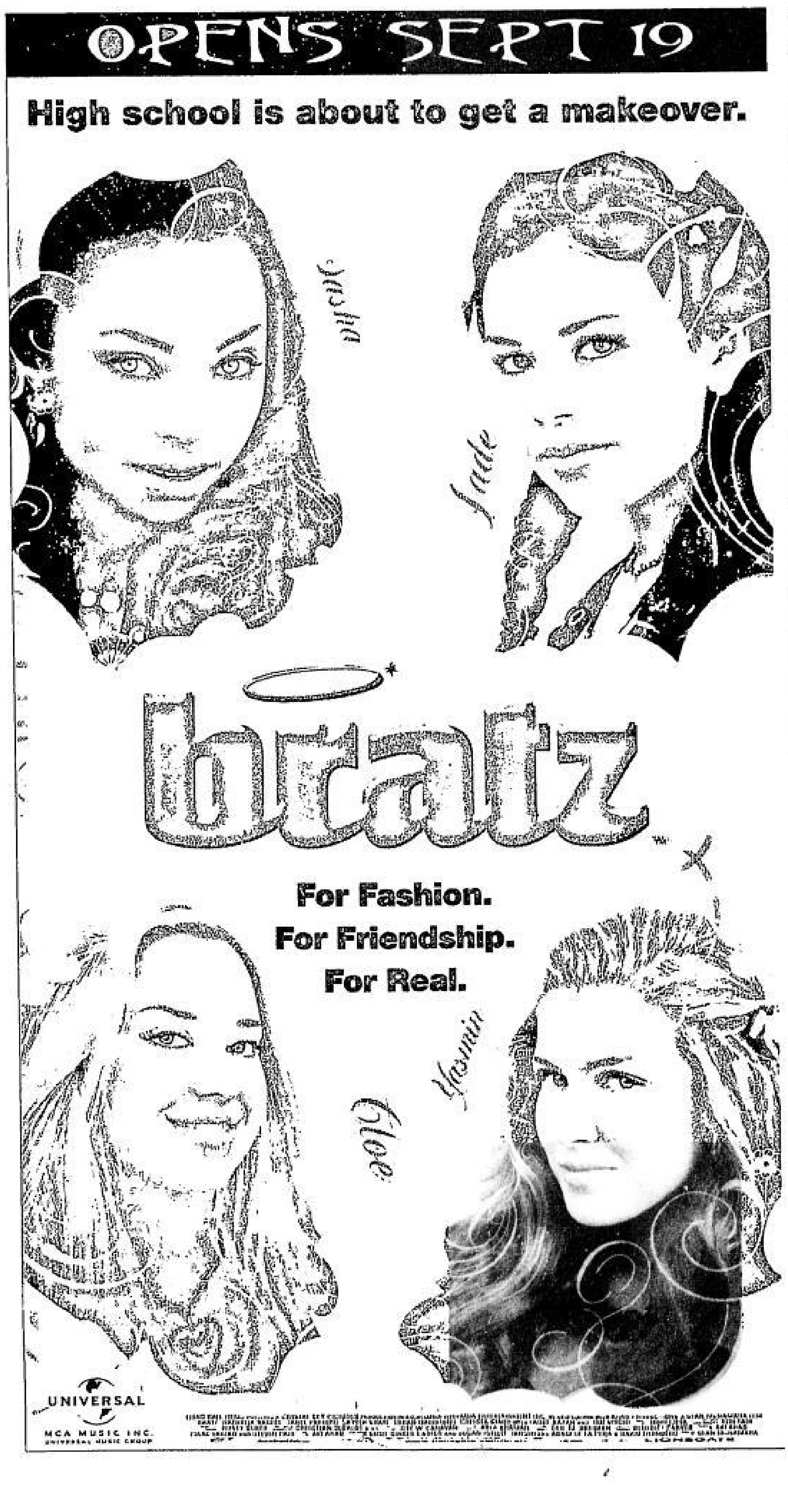
Jean has another child, 5-year-old son Kotaro, by a Japanese businessman.

Considering her-

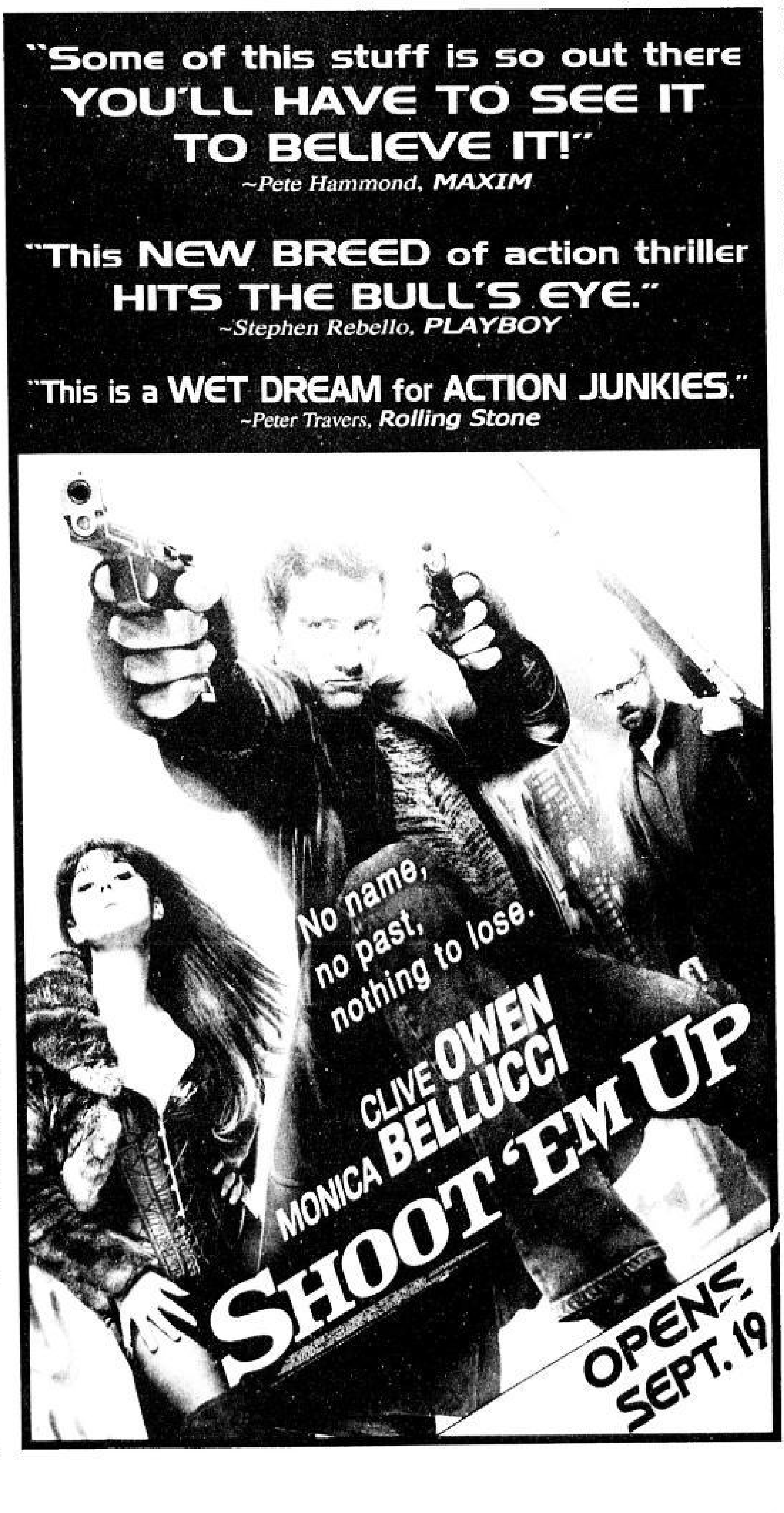
TEENAGE/ D4



MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
NOW SHOWING
ARE YOU DEAD OR ALIVE?
LINDSAY LOHAN
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME......



OPENS SEPT 19
High school is about to get a makeover.
bratz
For Fashion.
For Friendship.
For Real.
UNIVERSAL
MCA MUSIC INC.



"Some of this stuff is so out there YOU'LL HAVE TO SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT!"
~Pete Hammond, MAXIM
"This NEW BREED of action thriller HITS THE BULL'S EYE."
~Stephen Rebello, PLAYBOY
"This is a WET DREAM for ACTION JUNKIES."
~Peter Travers, Rolling Stone
No name, no past, nothing to lose.
CLIVE OWEN
MONICA BELLUCCI
SHOOT 'EM UP
OPENS SEPT. 19

FIND THE *Fashion* YOU WANT...

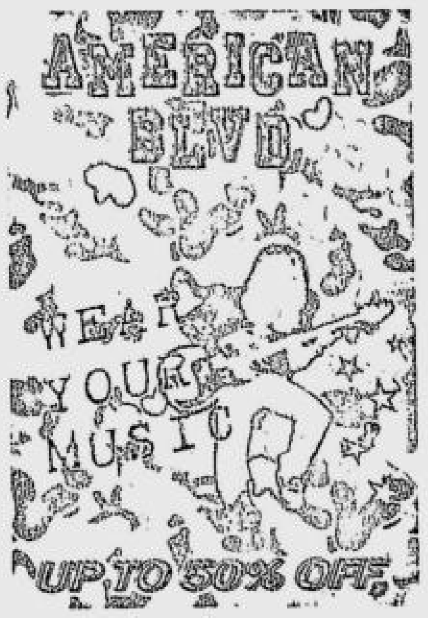
GET **50% OFF** ON SUPERDEALS & DISCOUNTS ON **SEPT 14 • 15 • 16!**

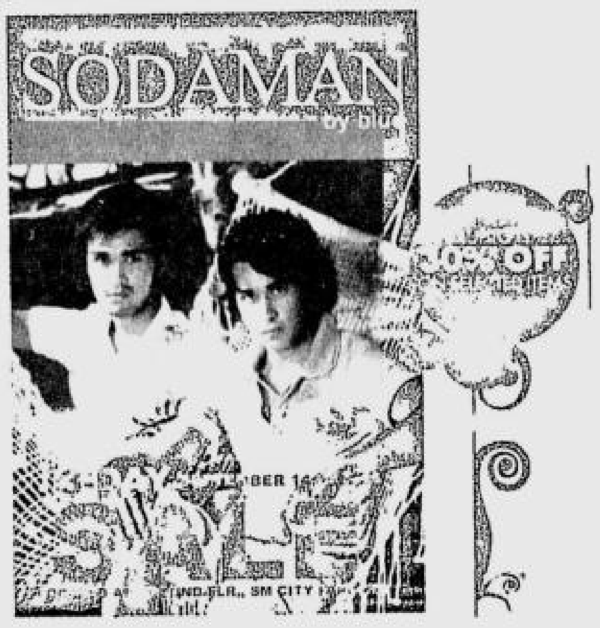
Cool, Sharp looks for him

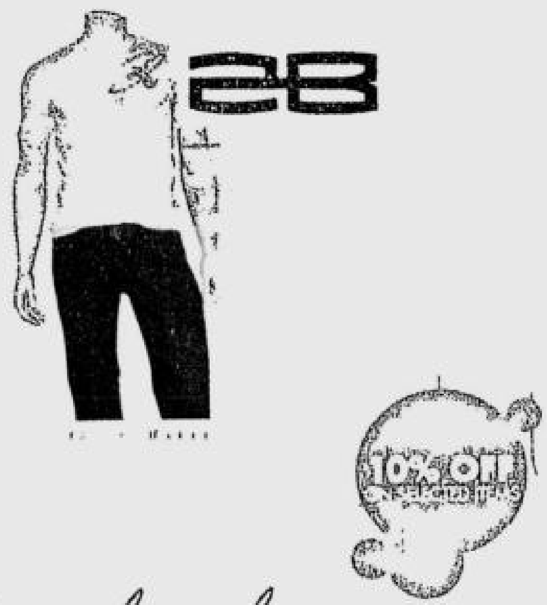
MONNAKIKI
LIFESTYLE CASUALS
30% OFF

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED TODAY?
BAMBOO
PENSHOPPE
10% OFF

SM City
FAIRVIEW


AMERICAN BLVD.
WEAR YOUR MUSIC
UP TO 50% OFF!


SODAMAN
by blu
30% OFF
SALE
GND.FLR., SM CITY



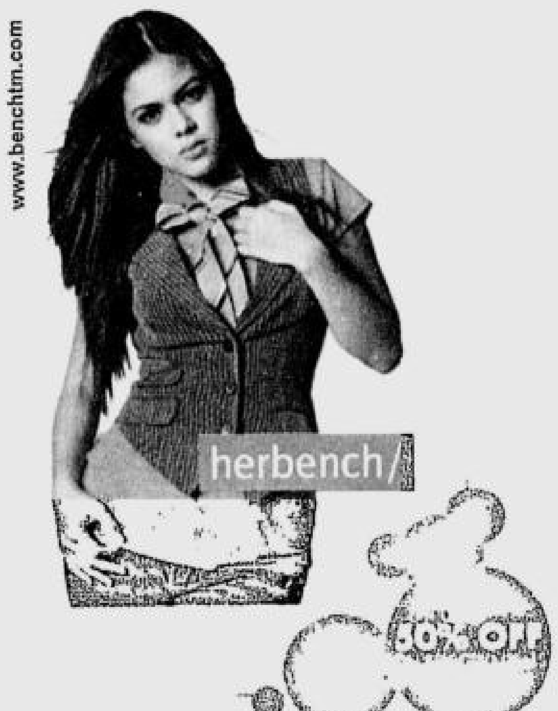
HANG TEN
30% OFF

G2000
50% OFF
ON SELECTED ITEMS

Chic, sexy outfits for her

FOREVER 21
40% OFF
ON SELECTED ITEMS

30% OFF
ON SELECTED ITEMS


www.benchtm.com
herbench/
30% OFF

KARIMADON
30% OFF
ON SELECTED ITEMS

kamiseta
UPPER GROUND FLOOR
30% OFF

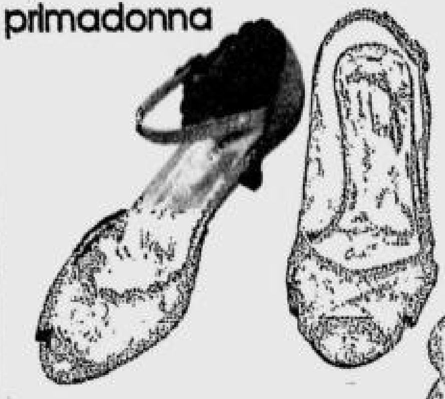
50% OFF
ON SELECTED ITEMS
Cabrelli

GRAB THE *Choices* YOU LOVE...

GET 50% OFF ON SUPERDEALS & DISCOUNTS ON SEPT 14 • 15 • 16!

Step into style

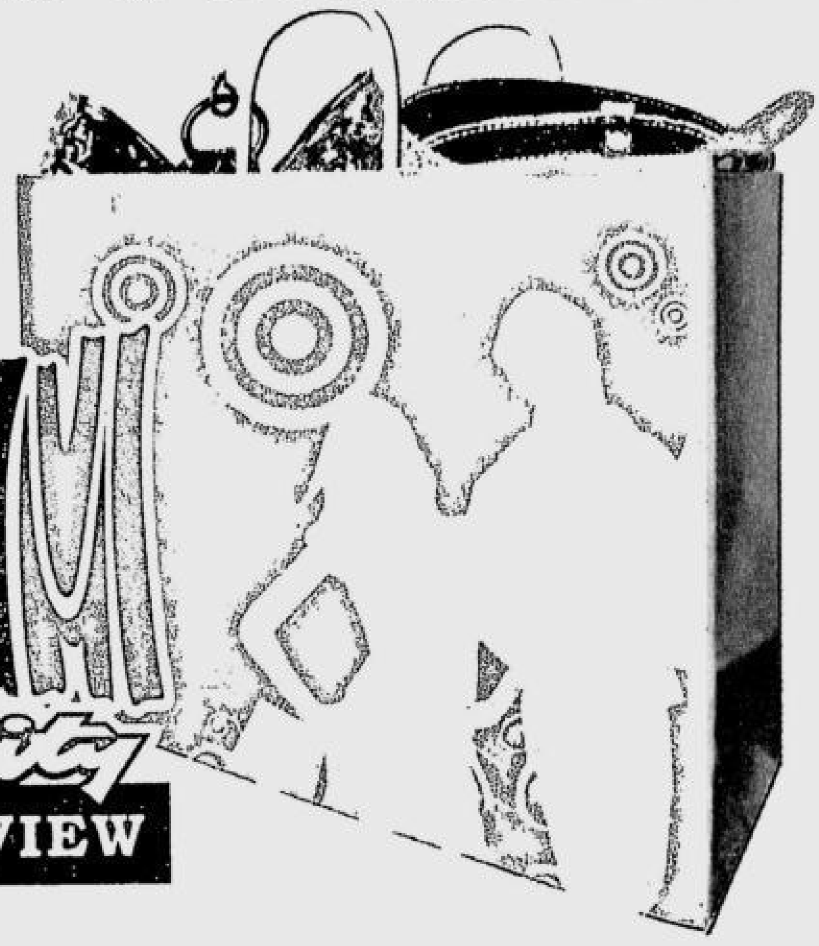
pd primadonna



50% OFF

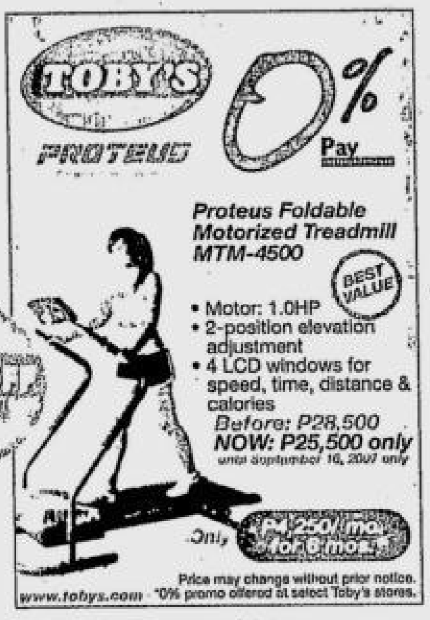
ITI

10% OFF



SM City FAIRVIEW

Be a good sport



TOBY'S PROTEUS 0% Pay

Proteus Foldable Motorized Treadmill MTM-4500

BEST VALUE

- Motor: 1.0HP
- 2-position elevation adjustment
- 4 LCD windows for speed, time, distance & calories

Before: P28,500

NOW: P25,500 only

until September 16, 2007 only

Only P4,250/mo. for 6 mos.

Price may change without prior notice.

www.tobys.com *0% promo offered at select Toby's stores.

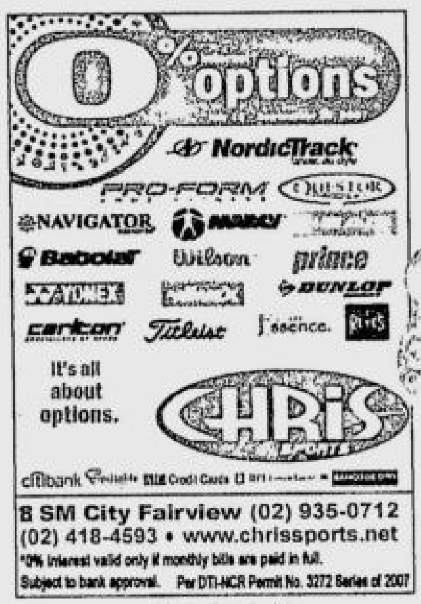
10% OFF

B CLUB

30% OFF

GBX HARBOR FOOTWEAR, USA

30% OFF



0% options

NordicTrack PRO-FORM NAVIGATOR Babolat Wilson prince YONEX DUNLOP carlton Titleist Essence

It's all about options.

CHRiS SPORTS

citibank Credit Cards

8 SM City Fairview (02) 935-0712

(02) 418-4593 • www.chrissports.net

*0% interest valid only if monthly bills are paid in full.

Subject to bank approval. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3272 Series of 2007

30% OFF

PARK NIKE

NIKE WORKOUT ACCESSORIES

30% OFF

A dash of flash,

timefocus

SEIKO MAP METER
SEIKO

10% OFF

FENDI
GIVENCHY

Ideal VISION CENTER

50% OFF

Audio-visual delights

odyssey THE #1 MUSIC STORE

NEWLY-RELEASED AUDIO CD'S & WIRELESS WOW MAGIC SING

10% OFF

Video City
VCt
Time to relax
NEWLY-RELEASED DVD & VCD MOVIES

30% OFF

COOLMAX

BAD BOY
Coolcat

BAD BOY & COOLCAT WATCHES

10% OFF

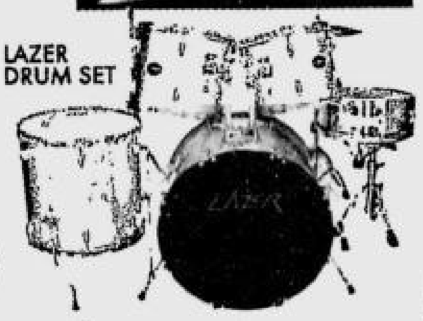
PINC'IADA

SET OF BLUE SAPPHIRE W/ DIAMONDS 18K WG

10% OFF

LAZER SUPERIOR INSTRUMENTS

LAZER DRUM SET



10% OFF

ASTROPLUS
THE REAPING
NEWLY-RELEASED VCD & DVD MOVIES

SM SUPERMALLS

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO.A3-0679 SERIES OF 2007

at Prices YOU ADORE!

GET 50% OFF ON SUPERDEALS & DISCOUNTS ON SEPT 14 • 15 • 16!

SM City
FAIRVIEW

Makeover magic

DAVID'S FOR RÊVER
THE BEST IN EUROPEAN HAIRDRESSING

LAYERED BOB HAIR CUT

Lower Ground Floor
Tel. 938-3126

Forever Flawless

20% Discount on Services

10% Discount on Products

Valid at Forever Flawless SM Fairview.
Valid only on September 14, 15 & 16, 2007.

www.foreverflawless.ph

dermclinic
The True Skin and Hair Clinic

Lower Ground Floor, SM Fairview
417 3515; 936 9548
www.dermclinic.com.ph

Hobby Treasures

Blue Magic
SHERRY
25% OFF

Stitchin' Moments
50% OFF

Capture the moments

COPYTRADE®
Digital Copy Systems

Award-winning reliability
The lowest total cost of ownership.
A smile on your face.

KYOCERA
Copiers • Printers • MFPs

PHILCOPY

Digital Photo Express

SERVICES OFFERED
- FULL DIGITAL PHOTO SERVICES
- ACCEPTING VARIOUS DIGITAL MEDIA LIKE FLOPPY DISK, CD, SMART MEDIA, MEMORY STICK, COMPACT FLASH, XD CARD, MMC CARD & SD CARD
- INVITATION CARDS, CALLING CARDS
- PHOTO RESTORATION/ PHOTO COMBINATION & PHOTO EDITING (LIGHT/ MEDIUM/ HEAVY)
- PRINTS WITHOUT NEGATIVES
- PRINTS PICTURE FROM CELL PHONES
- CD-R WRITING SERVICES
- CHANGE COLOR PRINT TO SEPIA OR BLACK & WHITE
- INDEX PRINTS & CONTACT PRINTS
- STUDIO GLAMOUR SHOTS
- RUSH I.D./ PASSPORT

FREE Konica FILM
FOR EVERY ROLL OF FILM DEVELOPED & PRINTED

BARKADA FUNSHOTS

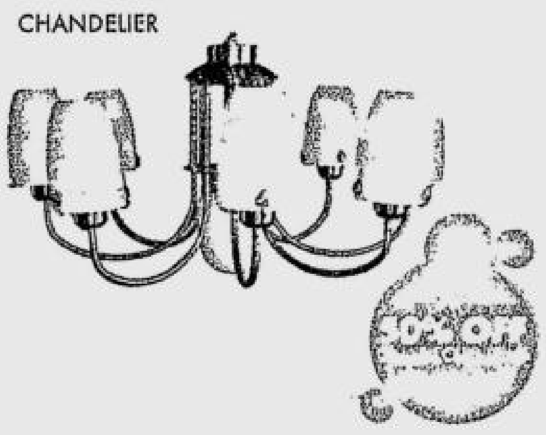
ONLY P50
Regular Price P99

*2 Poses
8 Wallet Size
(4 copies/per pose)

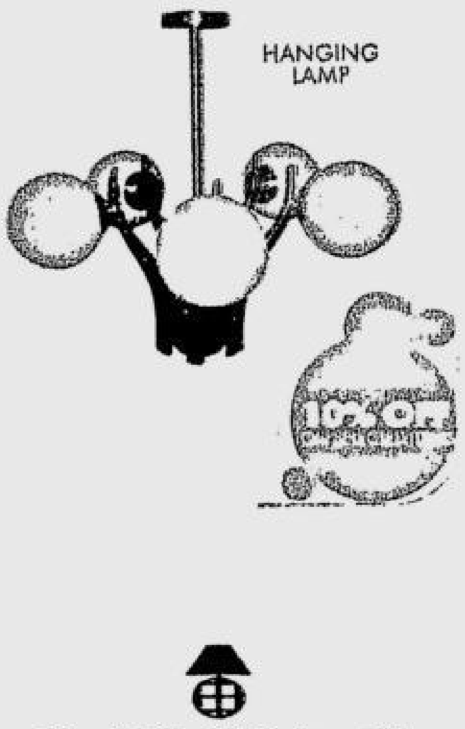
Kameraworld

Brighten up your home

PROVIDENT LAMPS


CHANDELIER
10% OFF

SOLAR LAMPS & LIGHTING, INC.


HANGING LAMP
10% OFF

A's LAMPS
TABLE LAMPS

Bright World Lighting Co.

CHANDELIER

SM SUPERMALLS

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A3-0679 SERIES OF 2007

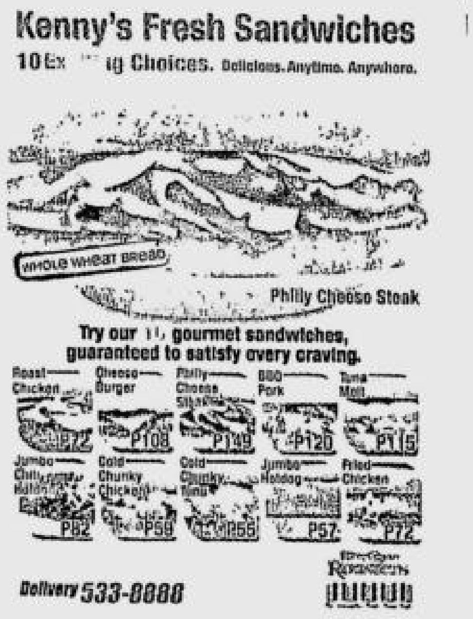
Delectable & Appetizing

THEN, HAVE A *Delicious* MEAL!

GET GREAT FOOD DEALS & DISCOUNTS ON **SEPT 14 • 15 • 16!**

Delicious Pizza, through thick and thin.
5-55-55
greenwich

SM City
FAIRVIEW


Kenny's Fresh Sandwiches

10 Ex[illegible]g Choices. Delicious. Anytime. Anywhere.

WHOLE WHEAT BREAD
Philly Cheese Steak

Try our 10 gourmet sandwiches, guaranteed to satisfy every craving.

Roast Chicken P72
Cheese Burger P108
Philly Cheese Steak P149
BBQ Pork P120
Tuna Melt P115
Jumbo Chili Hotdog P82
Cold Chunky Chicken P59
Cold Chunky Tuna P55
Jumbo Hotdog P57
Fried Chicken P72

Delivery 533-8888

New! Salad Sensations

Always Fresh. Always Tasty.

BIG MANDARIN CHICKEN SALAD

WENDY'S DELIVERS!

533-3333

Chowking

NEW SPICY CHAO FAN (Chicken & Beef)

2 Stores in SM Fairview

Choco Cake? O Choco Donut?

Mister Donut Choco Cake Donuts!

Sarap pang-surprise!

icebergs

HALO-HALO

BORACAY SPLIT

BURGER KING
WHOPPER JR. STUNNER
FREE SUNDAE!
P99 ONLY!
BQ WHOPPER JR.
P109
P99
P120
P120

Meet to Eat AT SM FOODCOURT

LOWER GROUND FLOOR

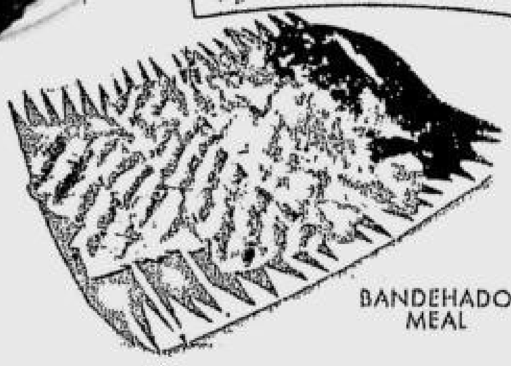
Flaming Hot

SPARERIB[illegible] [illegible]ME MEDLEY & JAVA RI[illegible]

CHICKEN COMPANY

CHICKEN BBQ

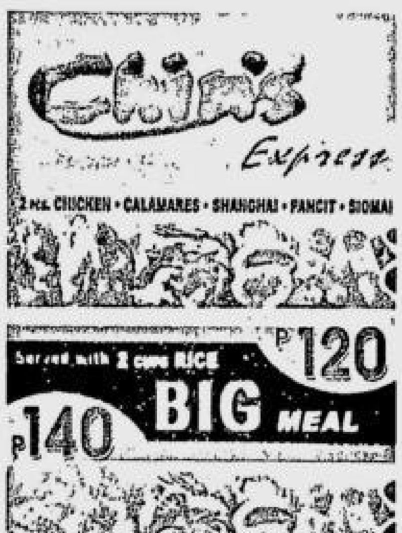
Kusina ni Gracia


BANDEHADO MEAL

CLASSIC
Sa Sarap
Tropical Hut

Inihaw EXPRESS

COMBO MEAL
1
PORK BBQ
PINAKBET
RICE
2
P61


Chin's Express

2 PC. CHICKEN • CALAMARES • SHANGHAI • PANCIT • SIOMAI

Served with 2 cups RICE

P120 BIG MEAL P140

2 PC. PORKCHOP • CALAMARES • SHANGHAI • PANCIT • SIOMAI

GotoKing

GOTO SPECIAL W/ TOKWA'T BABOY

ORIENTAL bowl

SPRING CHICKEN MEAL

SM City FAIRVIEW

3 SALE

SEPT 14 • 15 • 16

Mall hours:
SEPT 14 • 15 10am - 11pm
SEPT 16 10am - 10pm

UP TO 50% OFF

GREAT SELECTIONS MALLWIDE

See mechanics poster for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0679, Series of 2007.

get a chance to WIN 1 of 10 NEXTBASE Portable DVD Player with 17.78cm (7") color monitor

SM SUPERMALLS